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CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

The First Cover Page

CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

APRIL, 1915

VOL. I, NO. 1

RAY PRESENTS

'Tis Easter time, and I will rhyme
A story for your ears,
With memories of old and new,
A long Parade of Years.

I've laid an egg, but do not fear,
For it will surely hatch,
For I'm a hen, who knows her men,
And just the soil to scratch.

Let Famous build new theatres,
To Canada's sea-coast,
Let Odeon build them, also,
I'm not disposed to boast.
But in this theatre-marathon,
Others will join the race,
In every city, village, town,
New theatres we will face.

So would it not be better
To have a little talk,
The builders get together,
'Ere we all go into hock.

Let's have our own UNO,
Sit down, divide the spoil,
To operate most wisely,
Troubled Waters, we should oil.

Lest you call me, Jeremiah,
And the proverbial croaker,
I'll preach restraint no more to you,
Life's like a game of poker.

The gambler always plays to win,
But in winning he may lose,
In our business the public's whim
Plays the hand which we may choose.

Distributors of pictures know
Each new theatre may mean a date,
The Film Board just folds its hands,
Says, "We'll leave this race to Fate".

There's an Exhib-Co-operative,
You know from A to Z,
Although it spells out E.B.A.,
'Tis tailored P.R.C.

There's a group of Independents,
Death on circuits, so they say,
I've yet to meet one, who refused,
A deal that raised his pay.

The Industry is changing,
The personnel, has grown show-wise,
And each of us is on the search
For a plum, which is a prize.

The Operator-Pioneers,
They surely know their stuff,
What they do not think of
You can write upon your cuff.

On the job are the Bennetts,
Morris Weiss and Ben Okun,
Kaplan and Sprachman, Jay English,
With building plans, not hokum.

For theatres France Films is looking,
The Distributors want French dates,
The latter forget, they're in Quebec,
And not the United States.

You can "qu-est-ce que c'est?" your darndest,
In that province, parlez-vous,
They have their own ideas,
And they do not think for you.

Remember the British Film Quota?
You should remember it quite well,
Canada's language is bi-lingual,
And there's a tale to tell.

Dainty, pretty, sweet sixteen,
Who worked for just a few,
The little mm. Miss of films,
Has the Industry in a stew.

She operated one night stands,
By caravan and car,
Before the feature picture knew
The meaning of a star.

The War has made her popular,
This wench was on all fronts,
She has shown our old-timers
Something new in old-time stunts.

She can play most any place,
In a church, a hall, or store,
She can reel into a ballroom,
Charge a dollar, less or more.

She goes places never dreamt of,
Scorns the cities, prefers "sticks",
And what she earns in do-re-me,
Is more than steel and bricks.

With Television coming,
And like Radio, here to stay,
Show business is an Industry,
For those who know their way.

The Firestones built theatres,
Left the game, and took their "hay",
Not to follow the ponies,
They were never quite that gay.

Which does not mean that you should do,
What they did with their shows,
It only means, when in this biz,
Be wise and your bank-roll grows.

There are men in other Industries,
And Enterprises vast,
That know our business can make
Their investment double fast.

Odeon has a Studio
For making pictures here,
They tell you Shorts, Commercials,
But never, never fear,
That Odeon will stop there,
Just watch that Studio grow,
And when it gets Equipment
You will see what you should know.

Famous has paid its Bonds and Debts,
It is Master of its Ship,
Finance was planned most carefully,
No slip 'twixt cup and lip.

And here am I, an editor,
Watching the wheels go 'round,
For over thirty years I've watched,
From Silent Film to Sound.

From black and white, flat surface to depth,
And the Third Dimensional Screen,
From tinted slides to Technicolour,
And the Cine tones serene.

Joseph Schenck, the lone producer,
Decried the noise of talk,
And I agreed with him that Sound,
Would early take a walk.

WITHIN THE LAW was fairly good,
And then I changed my views,
M-G-M's ANNA CHRISTIE,
Made Garbo's voice big news.

Marie Dressler and Wallace Beery,
Made their pictures go,
Gone were the stars of Yesteryear,
On with the new Sound Show.

The Silent Film slept in the can,
As silent as can be,
The Infant grew up overnight,
A Giant Film Industry.

Harry Warner I remember,
Fighting for his Vitaphone,
And William Fox, with black moustache,
Fighting for Movietone.

Still further back, there's Brulatour,
Jules, of the Kodak deal,
A small percentage for every foot,
That was wrapped around a reel.

An early bird was Brulatour,
Who deserves his wealth,
What he has was in his faith,
He earned it by himself.

Well I remember Adolph Zukor,
A hundred thousand his own stake,
In Famous Players Canadian
He gave his dough a break.

Another old friend is Nicholas Schenck,
Right hand for Marcus Loew,
He shielded him, always on guard,
He made Loew's fortune grow.

A showman is Leo's Howard Dietz,
For he made a Lion walk,
Dressed him up like a lord, by gad,
And then he made him talk.

As for my good friend, Ned Depinet,
He is young for his years in our biz;
But RKO have no presidents
Unless their I.Q. Quiz
Is a hundred percent ability,
And nary a chance on a miss.

There is Harry Cohn and brother Jack,
Paired as a perfect team,
With the Statue of Liberty for a Trademark,
They started on their own steam.

They have walked where angels fear to tread,
Majored on a minor key,
Encouraged themselves to produce Big Stuff,
And won out finally.

There is Louis B. Mayer of Metro,
With one "M" for Mayer, as you know,
It should happen to me,
What happened to him,
When he "lettered" himself in with Loew.

A Pioneer-Producer was Cecil DeMille,
Raised the Living Standard tone,
His bathtubs were always an inducement,
For a Saturday Night at home.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS,
THE SIGN OF THE CROSS,
Had all the timbre that rings,
And many have sung of the fame he won,
With his picture, KING OF KINGS.

RAY PRESENTS

There were Christie Shorts by Canadians,
There was Shipman's GOD'S COUNTRY,
Oscar Hanson financed EDUCATIONALS,
With the Hudson's Bay Company.

Elaine Irish made Cameo Classics,
When the Government was Drury,
B. E. Norrish made SEEING CANADA,
A C.P.R. story.

Some things which are old,
Some things which are new,
Are the same to you and to me,
For the past is my past,
Thirty years it has last,
And the new is the new yet to see.

We will see a good deal of John Davis,
Who came from across the sea,
Took a look at the theatres
In Canada, and said,
"They look pretty good to me".

To those who believe
He's a bit of old John,
And a slow-motion Englishman,
Take a look at the Map of Odeon,
'Round the world,
On a building plan.

When a producer lacks Distribution,
Of the pictures which he makes,
He begins to build a circuit,
If he has what a circuit takes.

There is Leo M. Devaney,
Heads RKO's Canadian Sales,
Always greets you smiling,
A Prince among our males.

There is Raftery, Sears and Lesserman,
Old-timers in our game,
Prima Donnas they have managed,
And carried on just the same.

There is David Selznick whom his father loved,
For he called him, "A clever boy",
To have a son grow up like David
You'll admit is no small joy.

Lewis taught David,
The Ups and Downs,
Taught him with bitter tears,
All the "Downs" little David
Threw to the birds,
He's been making hits for years.

My memory searches through its archives,
Turns up the Allen Clan,
J. J. Allen their promoter,
But short was his life's span.

The father-pioneer was Barney Allen,
Who watched his family's show,
The Allens were "sittin' pretty",
Over thirty years ago.

From the Portals of Law
To Motion Pictures,
Louis Rosenfeld by name,
He'd aloft a torch for Columbia,
To keep alive its flame.

Percentage on preferred playing-time,
No exhibitor can refuse,
First run houses, in closed towns,
When Louis turns on the juice.

There's Earl Lawson, the president,
Of a most important chain,
The Hon. Earl of Parliament
Sang songs which had them slain.

He sang of a country-maiden,
Whom a villain brought to shame,
"What ho," said Earl, "'Tis illegal,"
Then shot square to his fame.

Homer said in The Odyssey,
"From little things
Great things arise",
Homer knew human values,
And the least did not despise.

When John Fitzgibbons was a young man,
From a booth he watched the show,
He was just the Operator,
In that not so long ago.

When he married clever Catharine,
Saw his little family grow,
Sons and daughters, then the twins,
They ate up all his dough.

As Assistant to the late "N. L.",
He was faithful to his post,
If ever a man deserves the best,
It's Fitzgibbons, now we toast.

He has friends to the East,
He has friends to the West,
In the North and South he is known,
Big Chief, Indian Brother,
Is part of his renown.

While I talk of John Fitzgibbons,
And how Famous Players grew,
Some Famous men grew with it,
And I will name a few.

Zukor, Bickell, Balaban,
Sheppard, Holt and Ross,
Sidney Kent and Neil Agnew,
Nathanson, the boss.

Killam, Tudhope, and Tom Bragg,
Then a senator or two,
John Hicks and Austin Keogh
Are among the men I knew.

Bolstad, Barrow, Robertson,
The trio which cut a figure,
Fit the pieces in the plan,
Pecisely and with rigour.

Finance and Legal Rule,
In business operation,
Leaving nothing insecure,
Avoiding complication.

To this picture add another,
As wise as he can be,
This one is Morris Stein,
Who works so quietly.

In the old Pantages days,
When Vaudeville was given free,
With pictures for a big-time show,
Stein wrote Film History.

Another man commands attention,
In our Famous line-up of news,
Geldsaler, whom we all call Ben,
I wouldn't be in his shoes.

Committments and Delinquents,
Contracts for all Trademarks,
One continuous battle,
In his office fly the sparks.

"I'm a hold-over, not a push-over,
Two weeks you promised me,"
"If you can get a week," cries Ben,
"You're a better man than me."

Jack Arthur is a grandfather,
With three sons in the bag,
In the last decade he sired them,
He's a racer not a nag.

He played the violin,
With the Regent's Symphony,
Gave a touch of class
To the Movie Lass,
Helped build an Industry.

In the Exhibitors' First Exchange,
Arthur Cohen was the name,
On Yonge Street, close to Shuter,
'Ere Regal he became.

With Arthur there was Stephenson,
Charlie Stephenson, the same
Who brought us Mabel Normand,
In MICKEY of screen-fame.

When I think of First National,
I think of Clare Appel,
Of Atmospheric Prologues
To help the picture sell.

Clare was always press-conscious,
For publicity was keen,
He would "press" a picture run,
"The greatest ever seen."

I think of Motion Pictures
At the Grand, on Adelaide Street,
And that dusty climb
Up all those stairs,
When Small gave us a treat.

Poor Ambrose Small,
Who banked a million,
For his Trans-Canada shows,
A million dollars from Famous,
Where Small went nobody knows.

On this panorama of our past,
Arthur Hirsch looms from the screen,
I seem to link up Metro,
Samuel Goldwyn in this scene.

In an office on Adelaide Street,
N. L. Nathanson was there,
Hirsch was mighty handsome,
With the silver through his hair.

This was still in our Toronto,
Consolidated not yet born,
Hirsch left here for Montreal,
And Adilman brought in the coin.

Goldwyn moved over with Mayer,
In M-G-M the "G" was Sam,
"Include me out," said Goldwyn,
When an actor proved a ham.

Goldwyn knew what he wanted,
The best of the Film Row,
He would groom a "find" for a year, before
Starring her in his show.

Glad am I for the living,
Long life to them from me,
Which reminds me of Meretsky,
Who grew on our Film-Tree.

(*Continued on Page 6*)

RAY PRESENTS

(*Continued from Page 5*)

No Simple Simon is our Simon,
When he goes to a fair,
And if a Pie-Man meets our Simon,
He will buy his ware.

For our Simon is no Simple Simon,
Who hasn't got a penny,
You should have what our Simon has,
And you surely would have plenty.

Ben Cronk is another of our Youngsters,
Born right into our group,
He followed the Movie-Circus,
In a veritable Loop-the-loop.

Ben built many Allen theatres,
Managed them and supervised,
Not a lazy bone in his body,
He is Energy Energized.

Clair Hague, a great little showman,
Hypnotized them from the stage,
Thirty-five years with Universal,
He made Pictures the rage.

Of Canadian Pioneers a Founder,
As President four times in the chair,
A showman of the best,
May God give him rest,
He was always on the square.

The name of Gordon Lightstone,
Keeps running through my brain,
He's not a Pioneer, he says,
But we'll question him again.

In Winnipeg is Henry Morton,
No young colt is he,
When I went West,
To be his guest,
We talked of Liberty.

Henry Nathanson is Regal,
Came to Toronto from the West,
Just mention M-G-M to Henry,
He'll admit it is the best.

At Shea's Hippodrome is Teddy,
Dapper as he can be,
A mere infant was The Digest,
When we first met Teddy Gee.

And what of smiling Tom Daley,
The Imperial Pioneer?
That herring-choker from St. John,
Grows younger every year.

And there is F. G. Spencer,
In the Maritimes' territory,
We always mention him proudly,
A credit to our Industry.

I have seen on Time's Sun-dial,
The hours of our Movie-Clock,
Archie Mason, George Rotsky,
Who know the Showman's Sock.

Green, Doug. Cooper, Walter Golding,
Miller, Milligan, Pursel,
Frank Leduc, Bob Stevens,
The list too long to tell.

But if you will hear with patience,
This tale which appears so long,
Their story I will write into
The lyrics of my song.

The Greeks have a word which means honour,
Write the name of Skouras down,
Not forgetting Ganetakos, Salamis,
Their names have won renown.

Many are their film Interests,
But foremost is their loyalty,
They gave a helping hand,
To their native land,
As leaders of a great Industry.

Ray Tubman is a name that means,
Good-Will on the marquee,
Always on the go
Supervising his show,
That I like Ray, you'll agree.

Jimmy Nairn of Famous, you all know,
In War Services was our man,
Never said, "No," to any job,
Said, "I'll do the best I can."

Among the first was Laemmle,
The Root of the Universal Tree,
"Straight from the shoulder," Carl Laemmle,
He built Universal City.

Over thirty years ago Mary Pickford,
Left the General Film Monopoly,
From Biograph "Uncle Carl" took our Mary,
Then The Independents ran The Industry.

To Universal from RKO went Blumberg,
When Laemmle and the Cochranes sold out,
Nate did a big job for Universal,
Beyond the Shadow of a Doubt.

When you're thinking of Republic,
You think of Herbert Yates,
With Jimmy Grainger at the helm,
How they book and how they sell 'em,
They're seniors when it comes to getting dates.

And now let's talk of Perry,
"A.W." is the name,
Empire-builder for Nathanson,
How well he knows the game.

On his way to London, is Archie,
An eager Eagle-Lion is he,
A Pioneer in our Movie-story,
We give you, Archie Laurie.

Charles Boyer has nothing on Laurie,
Dorothy Wilson once told me,
But when it comes to looks,
Dorothy heads my books,
With a Regal brain working perfectly.

There's an exhibitor in British Columbia,
All Hail to Dewees, B.C.
An old-timer who feels young,
From our Loins he surely sprung,
We will write him in our Film History.

Ken Leach, Eddie Zorn and Bob Roddick,
Names familiar to you and me,
In Quebec, Maurice West,
Lalumiere, Beaulac, the rest
All grew upon our Film tree.

Donn Stapleton, and Jules Bernstein,
And Len Bishop at the Tivoli,
Harry Friedman in the West,
Boothe, Armand among the best,
Harry Allen and brother Izzie.

Many are the names we could mention,
Who fathered this Industry,
Brouse, Robson, Thomas and "N.L."
They built for posterity.

In the beginning there were few Movies,
The RED MILL was one of them,
The GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY made a hit,
Patronized mostly by men.

Adolph Zukor bought the first film feature,
QUEEN ELIZABETH with Sara Bernhardt,
In Toronto, Sam Lester had the Doric,
And booked "The Queen" for a thrilling start.

Long ago John Griffin had a circuit,
With pictures on an all-day grind,
Walter Kennedy was the star performer,
With no time to change his mind.

Years ago Sammy Fine became,
The partner of our jovial Sam Bloom,
They built up the B & F circuit,
Their business began to boom.

When Famous registered their Trademark,
"N.L." took the Sammy's in,
On a fifty-one percent basis,
That "one" always makes me grin.

There's another I must mention,
The name of Thomas J. Bragg,
He grew up with our business,
And was never known to lag.

Loyalty with him is a virtue,
His operation was always sound,
He was another Famous Major,
Before he left the Famous crowd.

Haskell Masters always comes back,
For in Canada he likes to live,
Many years he was with United Artists,
And how he made the exhibitors give.

Pickford, Fairbanks, Chaplin,
What percentages he wrote,
Exhibitors played them all, and yet,
None of them ever went broke.

In its second year was The Digest,
When "Jay L" opened his eyes,
Into the Judiciary I steered him,
My success you can surmise.

In Show Business he was born,
Heard of Movies day and night,
As Associate Digest Editor
I have a son who can help me fight.

Without John Cooper's portrait
This gallery would be cold,
What he knows about us,
Had best be left untold.

But "good as you are" is our ditty,
It makes us as good as you,
Let the knockers curse,
For better or worse,
What counts is the good we do.

George Weeks and Phil Reisman,
Are in our old-time show,
George gave Paramount a Pyramid,
Phil heads Foreign RKO.

The days are growing longer,
Mickey Mouse is 'round the corner,
Disney's birds and animals
Make my heart grow warmer.

Mellow are the memories,
Which blanket this Infant of ours,
I can hear its steady heart-beat
As a song among the stars.

But I cannot sing "My tale is told,"
To the tune of a limping rhyme,
With memories of Thirty Years,
Which are forever mine.

to Kay

CONGRATULATIONS!

Here's hoping the future will find you the same militant champion of the Motion Picture Industry as you have been these past 30 years.....

FAMOUS PLAYERS
CANADIAN CORPORATION LIMITED

TO RAY LEWIS:

Thirty years of trade publication is a record of which you may well be proud and I send you my heartiest congratulations on your achievement.

You have an enviable record of service to the Industry which plays an important part in the affairs of your great country.

Through Odeon Theatres of Canada and Eagle Lion Film distributors, we of the J. Arthur Rank organization, welcome our opportunity to bring to the entertainment industry of Canada an increasing number of first class British pictures with proven box office value.

JOHN DAVIS

ODEON THEATRES OF CANADA LIMITED

ROYAL BANK BUILDING

TORONTO, CANADA

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

22nd March, 1946.

Miss Ray Lewis,
Canadian Moving Picture Digest,
277 Victoria Street,
Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Ray:

The directors and executive officers of Odeon Theatres of Canada Limited extend to you felicitations and congratulations upon the Thirtieth Anniversary of "Canadian Moving Picture Digest", which for so many years has served efficiently and well not only the Canadian Picture industry, but the Canadian Nation in War and in Peace.

We wish for the editor and personnel of Canadian Moving Picture Digest many more happy birthdays.

We remain,

Yours very sincerely,

J. Earl Lawson

Down Toronto's Memory Lane

By BILL PRESS

IT'S nice to have travelled down Memory Lane with Ray Lewis and it is, indeed, a pleasure to greet her on the Pearl (30th) Anniversary of the Canadian Moving Picture Digest. No living soul can tell in full her countless benefactions to fellow-beings, regardless of race, creed or color, in her personal activities while, to the Canadian film industry, she has contributed greatly in time and effort with her boundless energy, her acumen and her convictions which, with her womanly intuition, have invariably been at or near the truth. In looking backward and peering forward at this juncture, one can say it's nice to have known Ray Lewis — and the film trade would not have been the same without her.

W. R. Green, First Digest Editor

This columnist can look back on the time when the Digest was not blessed with the leadership of Ray Lewis — back in the early days when its home was at 27 Jarvis Street and its primitive form was being guided by Owner Nutting and tall, lanky W. R. Green as its editor. That was at a time when the film exchanges were scattered all over downtown Toronto while lower Yonge Street was strung with a row of nickel shows, the Red Mill, Rialto, His Majesty's, National and Empress, as well as Loew's and the Strand. Immediate Queen Street had such theatres as the Photodrome, Colonial, Variety, Globe, Maple Leaf, Reo and Moss Park, while venturesome pioneers had started theatres in distant suburbs such as Danforth Avenue, Oakwood Avenue, way up Yonge Street and out Parkdale way.

The film offices were almost anywhere — in second storey flats, converted stores and even office buildings. In the rush of time, incidentally, it is practically forgotten that the Ontario Board of Moving Picture Censors occupied the seventh floor of what was then the World Building on Richmond Street West which long since became a part of the Robert Simpson Co. department store.

Farther along, at 106 Richmond Street West, was the head office of Universal Film Co., where the beloved Clair Hague held forth. That was a spacious office and the place probably can be remembered by present-day filmsters when it is told that the premises now function as a government liquor store. In between, it was an automobile showroom.

Famous Players Film Co.

Upstairs at 12 Queen Street East was Famous Players Film Co., whose Canadian film franchise figured dramatically in the early war between N. L. Nathanson and the Allens for control of the theatre-chain advantage across Canada. Regal Film Co., of which W. B. Reid was manager, was to be found at 21 Adelaide Street West, a short distance from the Grand Opera House where A. J. Small was still in evidence, and not far from the Regent, Nathanson's first deluxe film palace, where W. M. Elliott and Clarence Robson were successive managers.

Associated First National was located on Queen Street East where Bill Bach held forth after some years with Universal, later going to England where he attained a highly-successful career. First National was East of Church Street and the place later became a used-furniture emporium.

First Co-Operative Exchange

Far down Yonge Street, at No. 143, was the Canadian Exhibitors Exchange, probably the first of the film-distribution co-operatives through which independent exhibitors sought to battle the major distributors. The directors of the independent exchange included Jim Brady, president; Fred Guest of Hamilton, vice-president; Tom Scott, secretary-treasurer; Harry Alexander, Jim Crang, Dr. R. S. Richardson, Toronto; George Swanwick, Hamilton; A. A. Cooper, Huntsville, and J. S. Smart, Port Hope. Some are dead, some are out of the film business and some are staunchly linked with large chain companies — such is life!

There was the Monarch Film Co., where the manager was Phil Kaufman who was destined for a greater place abroad. Abe Berman had the United Artists exchange in the Stair Building at Bay and Adelaide Streets where the early Film Exchange Association had an office for a time. Mention of the name Berman recalls that Jake Berman was once prominently identified with the World Film Co. which had its Toronto headquarters on Yonge Street, not far from Front Street, and later was associated with Exhibitors Distributing Corp., where Doug Cooper was Toronto manager.

The Perkins Electric Co. had a well-filled place, even in those days, at 11 Temperance Street before moving up to the brand new Film Building at 277 Victoria Street at a later date.

There was a cluster of film offices at 21 Dundas Street East and these included the Vitagraph Film Co., where W. F. Barrett was established before heading to New York for greater things; Specialty Film Import, with H. V. O'Connor as manager, and Fox Film Co., was guided by Vince McCabe. Chieftain of Specialty Film Import was L. Ernest Ouimet, Montreal's pioneer distributor and a colorful character who did much to put Pathe on the Canadian map.

Hanson's Canadian Educational

Appearing on the scene was Oscar R. Hanson with Canadian Educational Films, producer and distributor of many short subjects. About that same era, Leo M. Devaney had left the old Toronto News and had started to make his film-trade mark in Cleveland and Detroit, later returning to Toronto to rise to the general-managership of RKO-Radio. With the old News, too, had been Charlie Querrie before venturing into sport promotion and becoming manager of the Palace Theatre, and Bill Gladish who created the moving picture department as one of the first, if not the first, of such daily newspaper features in Canada.

Jim Brady, Independent Leader

In those days there were theatre associations and theatre chains with their somewhat warm problems, just as now. A real organization was the Motion Picture Exhibitors Protective Association, headed by Jim Brady of the Madison Theatre. Harry Alexander of the Park, now the Lansdowne Theatre, was generally the first vice-president. It is interesting to note the names of some of the old-time directors: Sam Bloom, who had the Academy at 1248 Bloor Street West and is now a partner in B. & F. Theatres; Clarence Robson, who later figured with Famous Players and Odeon; Frank Robson, then manager of the York Theatre; Jim Crang of the Oakwood; J. S. Smart of Port Hope, for many years with Famous Players; M. Gebertig, Blue Bell; L. Fieghen, Broadview and Eclipse; A. Lester, Royal and King; B. Hudson, Aster; R. J. Cardie, Empire; R. S. Tichner, Revue; C. A. Welsman, La Plaza; Bill Sturgess, Imperial, and D. Ferguson of the Rosedale, which had a comparatively short life as a neighborhood house on Yonge Street, near Bloor.

The treasurer of the protective association was A. W. Applegath who divided his time between the men's hat business and three store shows, Variety, Red Mill and His Majesty's.

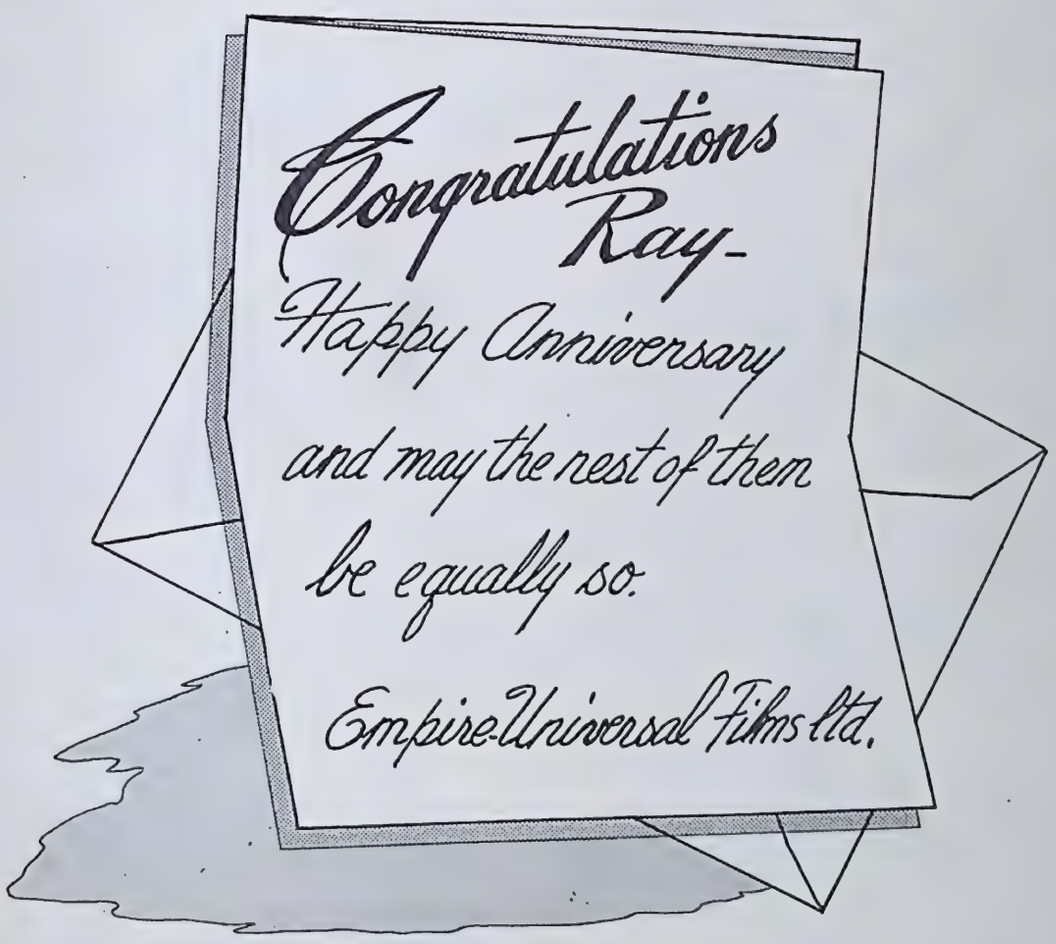
Prominent as a circuit proprietor in the yesteryears was Peter F. Griffin, vice-president and general manager of the Griffin Amusement Corp. which operated a score or more units in scattered centres of Ontario. He had two theatres in St. Catharines, Chatham, Woodstock, Owen Sound and Belleville, most of them bearing the title of Griffin's Opera House. Other town represented included Thorold, Welland, Cobalt, Haileybury, North Bay, Guelph, Kingston, Sault Ste. Marie and Sarnia.

"Mickey" Record

Another circuit, spread across the country, which played occasional film road shows, was operated by A. J. Small with his numerous opera houses. Still somewhat of a record was the run of "Mickey" at the Toronto Grand, lasting for a third of a year. This film was more or less embellished by the vocal offerings of Walter Kennedy throughout the long engagement.

The Allens and N. L. Nathanson were headed toward big circuits in fierce competitive manner and turning over the pages quickly, we are seeing Famous Players and Odeon in rival activity. We can remember the Allens,

(*Continued on Page* 11)


Congratulations
Ray-
Happy Anniversary
and may the rest of them
be equally so.
Empire-Universal Films Ltd.

Greetings from the Trade

"Dear Ray: —
You know that I would like nothing better than to be with you on this joyous occasion, but it is impossible for me to get away. May I join your many friends in expressing my heartiest congratulations on thirty wonderful years of service to the Industry, and my sincerest best wishes that the many years to come bring you and The Digest everything you so richly deserve.

Cordially yours,
HAL HORNE,
Story Productions Inc."

* * *

"Dear Miss Lewis: —
Regret very much that my program is so involved that I cannot get away, even though I would like very much to be with you on this auspicious occasion. My very best wishes for your Anniversary.

NATE J. BLUMBERG,
Universal Pictures."

* * *

"Dear Ray: —
Terribly sorry it will be impossible for me to attend your Thirtieth Anniversary Dinner. However, please accept my heartiest congratulations and best wishes for continued success.

Regards,
DON MERSEREAU,
Film Daily."

* * *

"Dear Miss Lewis: —
The name of 'Ray Lewis' and 'The Digest' has always been synonomous with the growth and uplift of the Motion Picture business — and it is a pleasure to felicitate the 'twain' on the Thirtieth Anniversary, — in which my sons, Gordon and Gerald, who had the privilege of making your acquaintance in Chicago, wish to be included.

With our best wishes go the hope that you will still be associated when the Fiftieth Anniversary is celebrated.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,
F. G. SPENCER.
F. G. Spencer Co.

* * *

"Dear Miss Lewis: —
I wish to extend to you most hearty congratulations on the forthcoming Thirtieth Anniversary of The Canadian Moving Picture Digest. I wish I could be with you on the anniversary occasion, but my schedule of engagements around that time is such that I shall be unable to come.

With cordial best wishes,

Sincerely,
MARTIN QUIGLEY,
Quigley Publications."

* * *

"Dear Ray: —
Great pressure of business following several weeks absence from New York prevents accepting your kind invitation. We all wish for you and The Digest another thirty years of health, success and service to the Motion Picture Industry.

S. BARRET McCORMICK,
RKO Radio Pictures."

* * *

"Dear Miss Lewis: —
I wish to extend to you, and to The Canadian Moving Picture Digest, my hearty congratulations and best wishes. My staff join with me in wishing The Digest all the best there is to wish, and to your good self, every success.

Cordially yours,
S. A. DOANE,
Chairman, N.S. Censor Board."

"Dear Miss Lewis: —
I sincerely regret that circumstances make it imperative for me to remain in New York, as I would have been very happy to join you in your great celebration.

Best wishes for a grand 30th Anniversary, and warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,
ADOLPH ZUKOR."
Paramount Pictures.

* * *

"Dear Ray: —
If I were within calling distance, I would, indeed, let nothing interfere with my attending such a happy occasion as the Thirtieth Anniversary of The Digest. However, as circumstances prohibit a personal appearance, permit me to forward my congratulations by mail.

As long as I can remember, back through the show business of the past, I recollect, a constant, weekly anticipation of The Canadian Moving Picture Digest. It had a personal appeal, which was not matched by the United States publications. It was, we all felt, a Canadian infant, learning to speak our own Canadian show language, and something intimately our own. I can remember the pride we had that a motion picture trade magazine was being published in Canada for Canadians, and how avidly we poured through the pages of those early issues to learn the news of our Canadian Industry. I think that its strongest original appeal was the quantity of personal reference we could anticipate, the praise and sympathy of an editor full of concern for our trials, ambitions, and successes. We have grown up together, and I can think of no item in the life of Canadian showmen which would be more greatly missed, if your publication should ever cease.

While those who know you personally realize that you have become more charmingly mellow with the passing years, we still recognize that your mind and pen have never lost their sincerity, their vision, and their clarity. You have secured for yourself an admirable place in the Canadian editorial forum.

Wishing both you and The Canadian Moving Picture Digest unnumbered years of continued success as our special Canadian show window,

I remain,

Sincerely yours,
R. S. RODDICK,
Maritime District,
Famous Players Canadian Corp."

* * *

"Dear Ray: —
Please accept my congratulations on your anniversary, and my very best wishes for a long continuance of your splendid contributions to the Industry.

Warmest regards,

Very sincerely yours,
DAVID O. SELZNICK."
Vanguard Films.

* * *

"Dear Ray: —
Much as I'd like to come to your Thirtieth Anniversary Celebration, I regret exceedingly that I am unable to do so.

I should like very much to shake you by the hand and congratulate you in person for the long and fine service you have rendered to the Motion Picture Industry; and to wish you the very best of health and happiness in the forthcoming years. Since I cannot be in Toronto on April 10th, please, therefore, accept my heartiest felicitations in this form. And, when the glasses are raised in a toast to you, the clink you hear will be from Kansas City.

Cordially yours,
BEN SHLYEN,
Boxoffice."

(*Continued on Page* 17)

Congratulations On Your

30th Anniversary

Best Wishes for the Future

▼

ALEXANDER KORDA

LONDON FILM PRODUCTIONS

LONDON, ENGLAND

Greetings from the Trade

"Dear Ray: —
You know that I would like nothing better than to be with you on this joyous occasion, but it is impossible for me to get away. May I join your many friends in expressing my heartiest congratulations on thirty wonderful years of service to the Industry, and my sincerest best wishes that the many years to come bring you and The Digest everything you so richly deserve.

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Paramount Pictu

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Famous Players Canadian

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Cordially yours,
BEN SHL

(*Continued on Page* 1

Congratulations On Your

30th Anniversary

Best Wishes for the Future

▼

ALEXANDER KORDA

LONDON FILM PRODUCTIONS

LONDON, ENGLAND

A NOTE TO "CANADA'S CINDERELLA" also known as

WARNER BROS.
PICTURES
DISTRIBUTING COMPANY, LTD.
70 CARLTON STREET TORONTO 2, CANADA
TELEPHONE KINGSDALE 5145

OFFICE OF
THE GENERAL MANAGER

APRIL TENTH
1 9 4 6

Miss Ray Lewis,
EDITOR
PUBLISHER
EXHIBITOR
DISTRIBUTOR
and
FRIEND

Dear Ray:

This is a sincere greeting from all the guys and gals at Warner Bros. Pictures on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of your Canadian Moving Picture Digest.

Gee, Ray, /-#"%(?!!, your tale must be told! . . .Keep telling it for another 30 years!!

Cordially,

Harry Mandel

She's dancing your way!

CINDERELLA JONES

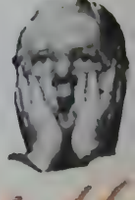
it's got those rapturous two from "RHAPSODY IN BLUE"

JOAN LESLIE • ROBERT ALDA

with EDWARD EVERETT HORTON — JULIE BISHOP — WILLIAM PRINCE

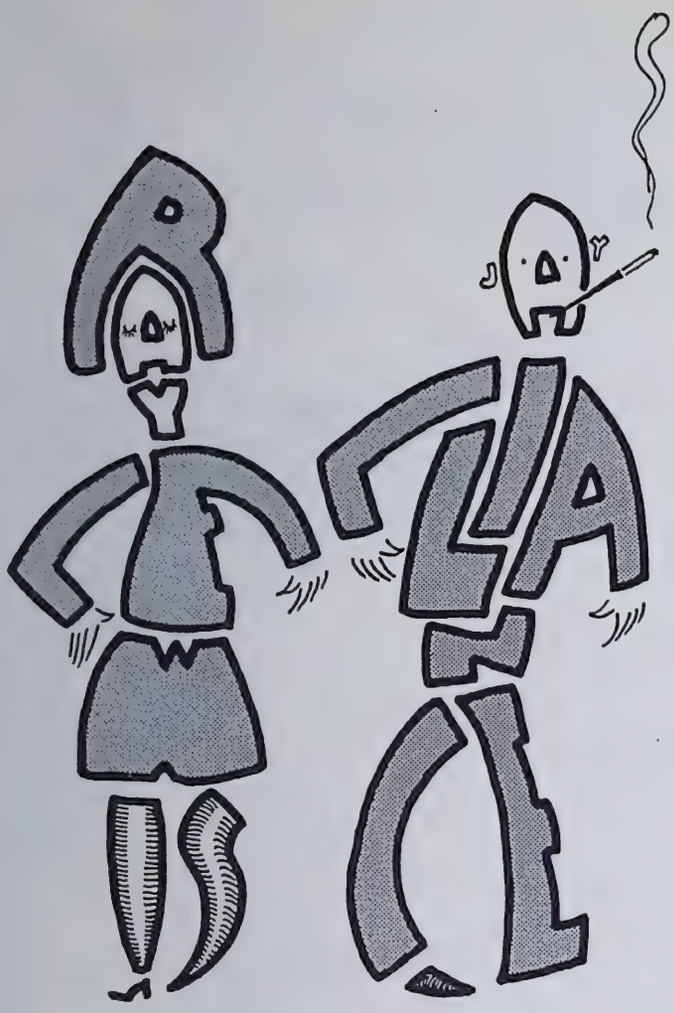
Screen Play by Charles Hoffman • From a Story by Philip Wylie

Directed by BUSBY BERKELEY • Produced by ALEX GOTTLIEB



and S.Z. SAKALL

Warner Picture!!!



Just a couple of youngsters going steady!

CONGRATULATIONS!

ALLIANCE FILMS LIMITED

✓

Congratulations, Ray Lewis, on the

30TH ANNIVERSARY

of your informative and intimate

CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE DIGEST

May you and your Digest prosper for many years.....

The Canadian Paramount gang

Paramount Pictures

Congratulations

to a lovely, versatile and distinguished lady, Ray Lewis, on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the

CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

"Time cannot wither her, nor custom stale
Her infinite variety."

•

From the Executive and Board of

PRODUCERS RELEASING CORPORATION

Congratulations

RAY LEWIS

AND THE

CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

It's A Sincere Pleasure To Extend
Congratulations To You, Ray, On
The 30th Anniversary Of The
Digest Which Throughout The
Years Has Been A Definite
Asset And Credit To The
Moving Picture
Industry!

UNITED ARTISTS
CORPORATION LIMITED

CHARLES S. CHAPLIN
Canadian General Manager

CALGARY - MONTREAL - ST. JOHN - TORONTO - WINNIPEG - VANCOUVER

Memories Of Show Business In Ye Goode Olde Days

Your editor was reminiscing with Walter Kennedy the other day with regard to show business of today and yesterday. Both were of the same opinion that to get results you still have to hustle and do a lot of hard work.

WALTER KENNEDY

Walter drew my attention to the time that he was manager of the Griffin Theatre in Belleville in 1914, with this theatre playing such road shows as Sir Martin Harvey, Lawrence Irving, son of Sir Henry Irving — The Quaker Girls — Primrose and Dockstater Minstrels, which at that time had the six musical Brown Brothers with them, and the great repertoire stock companies of Tom and Ernie Marks, who used to pack them in at 10, 20 and 30 cents.

Walter was telling me that he had an old Ford car and every time he had a road show or something special, he would get a pail of paste, a lot of one-sheets, and paste them on every telephone pole he could find. He claims to be the instigator of the Bell Telephone posting such signs as "Post No Bills".

After 1914 he moved to the Griffin Opera House at Guelph, which is now the Capitol Theatre. He went into the film business in 1916 to work for the late Clarence Robson, who had an exchange called All Features Limited and from there to the late General Films Company, which was located on King Street opposite the Princess Theatre. When General Films went out of business Walter went to work for Arthur Cohen at Exhibitors Distributing Corp., who had offices over the Rialto Theatre, located at the corner of Yonge and Shuter, which is now Adams Furniture Co. While with this company he managed the picture "MICKEY", which had a run of 16 weeks at the old Grand Opera House, and from then on this picture was the sensation of the industry.

After leaving the E.D.C. he worked for the late Phil Kaufman at Selznick Pictures, whose offices were located over the Grand Opera House on Adelaide Street West. Walter relates that the selling policy with Selznick at the time was to put up an electric sign in the town, if it had over a certain population, advertising the picture. Evidently this venture was non-profitable as it was not long before they closed in Canada. After this adventure he went to work for Clair Hague in Universal, which at that time had their offices above Simmons Florist at the corner of Young and Elm. Both he and Percy Taylor left Universal and went over to F.B.O. when they opened their office in Toronto. After being with this company for a considerable length of time he left and joined Oscar Hanson who was then General Manager of Educational Films in Canada, and was with that company until it was taken over by Empire Films. He now holds the capacity of General Manager with Sovereign Films. Walter claims that they are the largest distributors of 16mm. pictures in America.

Congratulations

RAY

* * *

JOHNNY COHN

CONGRATULATIONS
TO RAY LEWIS
AND "THE DIGEST"

SOVEREIGN FILMS

EVERY TYPE OF
ENTERTAINMENT
IN THE 16MM FIELD

Compliments of

TELEPHOTO
INDUSTRIES
LIMITED

1195 BAY ST.
TORONTO

Exclusive Canadian Distributors
AMPRO
MOTION PICTURE
PRECISION PRODUCTS

History Repeats Itself Through The Record Of Our Years

DURING thirty years of The Digest's publication, we have from time to time, published what might be described as cursory histories of motion picture development, in special editions, which we have published for special occasions. Therefore, a good deal of the story we are about to present, you have probably read in our pages before.

It has been said that most movie plots are similar, since there are but a few situations in our human experiences, around which one might picturize a story. The handling of the motivating impulses may be varied, the settings against a different background, the dressing may be modern wearing apparel, ultra-fashionable, tropical, exotic, or prosaic. That we write a story of the growth of motion pictures from their penny arcade days, or their one-reel flickers for a Pioneers Annual Digest Record, or a Confederation Jubilee, does not make the content of such history different. What we were as an Infant Industry in the field of entertainment, back in the years of the birth of The Digest, are facts and with facts one cannot play around, unless the inclination is to be legendary.

It is not our intention to assemble an array of dates and names in an endless procession; for such statistics we have no appetite, and you, probably have no stomach.

However, much as we desire to escape from a dated history, and to spare you, who are, after all, tired business men, accustomed, during the War Years, to getting your history in flashes over the Radio, or in newsreels upon the screen, you are invited to suffer with us as we write down for your records, some of the dates and names which cannot be omitted, if this story of ours is to aspire to the claim of being motion picture history, perhaps, briefly told, but still History.

The Dime Museum

As far back as 1890, we had, what was termed, the Dime Museum, with the Barnum flair for presenting, General Tom Thumb, The Man Who Could Not Stop Walking, The Ossified Man, all forerunners of our freak, or horror thrillers. It was only a dime to get in, but what it cost you to get out is another story. This policy of making money in the movies never appealed, or occurred to our movie promoters, who were satisfied with the dime and stopped there.

In 1888 a Lumiere moving picture machine was on exhibition at one of the Dime Museums, on St. Lawrence St., Montreal. It was brought there by Andre Vermet and Auguste Guay, two Frenchmen. The exhibition was not successful, since the repertoire of film was limited. However, a few years later, one reel films were successfully shown at Somer Park, an amusement centre operated by Monsieur La Roche. Doug. Cooper had a film exchange in Montreal next door to the Casino, this theatre on St. Catharine St., close to St. Lawrence and operated by Lawrence Sharp.

These were the years of George Klein, Biograph, Selig and Edison, forerunners of Vitagraph.

Applegath Showmanship

At the corner of Richmond and Yonge Sts., Toronto, Bert Applegath had a film exchange, handling the product of Imps., Powers, with Bill Barrett as general manager. Applegath also owned the Crystal Palace, Montreal. Looking backward, almost two decades, from the Applegath showmanship to 1870, we find recorded in The Digest, a mention of Alfred Cooper's Wheel of Life, which he brought from England to Canada. This was the first crude beginning of pictures in motion.

The Zoetrope was later a motion picture invention, developed by a scientist, Peter Mark Roget.

Edison invented a cylinder machine and made a motion picture with one of his employees, as the subject.

The First Flickie

George Eastman of the Eastman Kodak Company supplied a film which could be utilized for motion pictures. Edison formed a partnership with Eastman and together presented, first, people in motion and objects, but decided that there should be a story.

In 1894, there were no projection machines, nor any screen, therefore you "peeped" to see this show, the first "Flickie" as it was called on Broadway.

Evidently, England was more advanced in motion picture equipment than we were in America for W. F. Greene, a London photographer in 1890, gave a screen exhibition of "Traffic at Hyde Park," London, before the Royal Photographic Society. These shots were made jointly by Greene and Mortimer Evans, and of Greene it has been said, he is the Patriarch of the Movies. In June of 1898, he patented his invention.

Pathe in Canada

Two years later, the Countess D'Hauterville and her son came to America from France, and toured Canada. She was assisted by her son. The son operated the machine by turning the crank attached thereto. He gave a lecture with each show. Most of the exhibitions were at colleges, schools, or convents. The films were Pathe, hand-coloured, and mostly fairy tales. The film was run into a box, underneath the machine. At a later date, a metal box was substituted for the wooden, or cardboard box into which the film was dropped from the machine. The screen consisted of two sheets sewn together.

His Majesty's, Montreal

When the Countess and her son visited the United States, they gave their shows in Vaudeville houses, which in those days were called Variety houses. Proctor had a circuit of theatres then, forerunner of the Proctor-Keith-Albee vaudeville combination, and one of the circuit houses was His Majesty's Theatre at Montreal, now operated by Arthur Hirsch and Alex Adilman, affiliated, through Consolidated Theatres, with the Famous Players Canadian Corporation. His Majesty's Theatre is still in operation, playing Road Shows and the occasional motion picture.

The Peep Show

When the Edison invention, the Kinetescope came on the market, about 1894, there was, in connection with this machine, a stereoscopic enlarging hood against which you pressed your eye, looking into a dark box which was illuminated and you saw a film in motion.

The Holland Bros. brought the Kinetescope to Canada, and Montreal was probably the first Canadian city to have a "peep show".

In about 1895, the Ottawa Street Railway Company used the Edison Kinetescope to show a series of short subjects, the footage about fifty feet. Exhibitions were held at West End park, on the outskirts of Ottawa. Among the subjects were "Black Diamond Express" and some kissing scenes in which May Irwin, who later became a world famous stage star, and John Rice were the stars.

John Griffin Arrives

These showings are said to be the first motion picture exhibition in Canada. It was not until 1905 that John Griffin, who had operated medicine shows, and was associated with Cole's Circus, while en-route to Chicago, met a man on the train who had a motion picture machine and a film, "The Great Train Robbery". Griffin, while in conversation with this man, was so intrigued with the possibilities of this novelty, that he got off the train with this man, instead of continuing his journey to Chicago. He saw the film in operation, made a deal with the man, and returned to Toronto determined to go into this motion picture business. Griffin secured a site for his motion picture operation on Yonge Street, opposite the T. Eaton Co. and just south of the present site of Loew's. He called his theatre the Theatorium. It was about one hundred feet deep and about seventeen feet in width. The admission price was five cents.

The public was not quite certain about the respectability of this kind of entertainment and the audiences were mostly recruited from men, with a few women, the latter who looked about furtively to see if anyone was

(*Continued on Page* 28)

The Record Of Our Years

(*Continued from Page 27*)

looking, and then "sneaked" in. It is but forty-one years ago, when it was almost worth your reputation to be seen going into the Theatorium; and then John Griffin decided, that it might add a tone of respectability to charge ten cents for admission.

The Ten-Cent Show

That extra nickel worked miracles. The public felt that since it cost ten cents, the price of a dozen eggs in those days, to see this new-fangled idea, pictures which moved as if in real life, it must be classified among the social events. Incidentally, Donn Stapleton managed the theatre for Griffin. Business became so good that Griffin opened a second theatre, the Trocadero, on the north side of Queen St., west of Bay St. At that time, Bay finished about Wellington St. Further on from Wellington, there was the Bay which was later filled in by the city, and we had Front Street, and still later, Fleet Street, with our Sunnyside and Lake Shore development.

The Trocadero had a printing plant in the basement of the theatre. Michael Whitty was treasurer, but he doubled in "sign painting" for the Trocadero.

The Auditorium Opens

Following the opening of the Trocadero, a third theatre was opened in Toronto, the Auditorium at the corner of Queen and Spadina Avenue. Al Kane was an exhibitor in those days, and we are glad to say Kane is still on deck, but out of the show business, now being in the Immigration Office at Fort Erie.

Another theatre called the Lyceum, at Temperance and Yonge Sts., followed the Auditorium. Toronto was becoming movie-conscious in a big way. The Lyceum was operated by Jess Applegath, whose name was a familiar one in Toronto, for Jess Applegath's men's hats was a flourishing business and carried on for at least a quarter of a century. Jess himself had a gent's furnishing store at Queen and McCaul Sts. He renamed the Lyceum, the Crystal Palace and then went into the Exchange business handling "Imp." product. The Dominion Film Exchange was also operated by Bert Fenton over Belmont's Restaurant, Queen St. East.

Walter Kennedy Arrives

It was the custom to add variety, or vaudeville with the pictures, illustrated songs, and here is where Walter Kennedy steps into the picture. He worked for Griffin a number of years. Walter had a fine singing voice and the grind at that time was about twenty-five shows a day. In between, Walter helped Griffin get the acts and gave the acts "the axe" at Griffin's suggestion. The Variety players sent on their own billing, paid their own fares, and Griffin sized them up at the first show. If they were good and cheap, they remained for a week; if they were good, but more than Griffin thought they should have, they were fired after the first performance. However, if they were agreeable to take a "cut", they stayed and were promised further playing time. Griffin generally had more acts than he could use, just to play safe, to get a show, and someone good, or bad always had to "get the axe". Griffin sat in front and the audience could voice their approval, or disapproval of an act, for Griffin had no inhibitions in respect to expressing an opinion. "Hell" and damn" were taboo, and woe to the Variety player who dared to commit the blasphemy of mentioning the Name of God while on that stage. Griffin, in his high falsetto voice, would sound a blast, that not only frightened the players off the stage, but brought Walter running to the front of the house as Griffin called out, "Walter, Walter, ring down the curtain on these damn blasphemers". Of course, if the players threatened a lawsuit, then Griffin would immediately soothe them with flattery and tell them they misunderstood him. They were then booked at a theatre which took all their money to make the jump. Griffin had them out of Toronto and from then on, they were on their own.

The Old Circus Game

You will recall that John Griffin had training in the circus and looked upon the public as sucker species, one born every minute.

When Griffin opened the Hippodrome at the corner of Yonge and Shuter Sts., Toronto, next door to the Hippodrome was a penny arcade. The exit to the Hippodrome was through the penny arcade, and so Griffin had them coming and going, the old circus game.

The public now packed these motion picture theatres and Griffin turned the Casino into a picture house. Across the street from the Hippodrome, he opened another theatre, the Vaudeville Theatre, on the location of the present site of Seller & Gough, furriers.

Compliments to

RAY LEWIS

* * *

MR. & MRS. HARRY LESTER

The Griffin Amusement Co.

The theatre on Queen Street, called the Arcadian, and operated by Stan Hamer, was Griffin's next theatre venture which he named the Variety. Picture business was now big business for John Griffin and he formed the Griffin Amusement Company. He now had theatres in Belleville, St. Catharines, Sudbury, Cobalt, Sault Ste. Marie, and later on at Woodstock and Chatham. Most of the property sites, which Griffiin selected, remained the best theatre location in the town, even to this very day, for this showman had an eye to real estate values and had an uncanny insight into how a town would build. The Griffin Amusement Company had approximately twenty-two theatres which played vaudeville and pictures. It became known as the Hide-Away circuit, for acts which had lay-offs from Shea's Vaudeville Circuit, Big Time, often were persuaded by Bruce Fowler, booking agent for Griffin, to play the Canadian circuit, which promised 22 consecutive weeks. Fowler doubled as booker and as cashier at the Auditorium, at Queen and Spadina. Later on Fowler left Griffin to become booking agent for McMann and Dee at Buffalo. From this position Fowler became manager of the Olympia Theatre, where he became associated with Harold Franklin, the same Franklin who was supervisor of theatres and maintenance for Paramount-Publix. We next find Fowler at the Four Star Theatre, Hollywood, in an executive position with Fox Wesco.

Cobalt a Hideaway

Cobalt, famous for Cobalt Mines in our present history, was one of the hide-away towns, to which Griffin sent the acts he was determined to get rid of. After playing this town, Griffin would, in reply to a telegram, from a vaudeville act, inquiring for the next week's booking, wire that his company was endeavouring to find an open week. The act waited and waited, until nearly all of their money was gone, and then they would be forced to jump back to the States.

No Fishing Here

A story, has gone the rounds, of a single act which Griffin disliked. A woman singer sang a song in which for a "prop", she used a rod and line. On the end of the line was a hook in the shape of a heart; and the "business" of the song was to cast the line into the audience, for the song suggested she was "fishing for love". To Griffin's mind that song was not respectable and so he walked down the aisle, to the stage, calling out, "young lady, you will have to do your fishing elsewhere, you can't do it here!"

(*Continued on Page 29*)

The Record Of Our Years

(*Continued from Page* 28)

Bea Lillie With Griffin

Among the vaudeville acts which toured the Griffin Vaudeville Circuit, was Beatrice Lillie. Bill Stewart had the Lillie family booked. Muriel, sister of Beatrice, played the piano, Mrs. Lillie sang, and Beatrice was the comedienne, or soubrette of this trio of performers.

You are familiar with the name of Beatrice Lillie, Lady Peel, a name so closely identified with the history of our theatre. In Billy Rose's most spectacular stage show "The Seven Lively Arts", Beatrice Lillie was the star performer last year, on Broadway. Her screen career was not as pronounced as her stage career, due, no doubt, to her outstanding success on the stage. She appeared in M-G-M's "Exit Smiling" in 1936. She was in a Fox Short, and in 1938, she was in "Doctor Rhythm" for Paramount.

World-wide Loew Interests

When the Jacobs and Sparrows Opera House, called, The Majestic, gave up its stage shows, about the same period that the Stair and Havlin gave up their circuit in the United States: and Joseph Schenck, Marcus Loew and Nicholas Schenck saw the beginning of the world-wide Loew theatre interests, taking over the Stair & Havlin lease of melodramatic theatres and introducing vaudeville and pictures, the Majestic Theatre, on Adelaide St., Toronto, became the ace vaudeville house for the Griffin Amusement Company, with Peter F. Griffin, son of John Griffin, as manager of the circuit. Griffin had one daughter whose name was Ollie, and who was known to the trade in Canada later on as Ollie McMaster. Years after the decease of John Griffin, Mrs. McMaster, who, with the Capital Trust, managed the Estate of John Griffin, made a deal with N. L. Nathanson, for the operation of three theatres, one at Woodstock; another at Chatham, and the Palace at St. Catharines. The deal with N. L. Nathanson followed the formation of the Famous Players Canadian Corporation.

Griffin Theatres Leased

Later on, Famous Players rebuilt the theatre in Chatham, taking it over on a long lease. The reconstruction was almost an entirely new building process. Mrs. McMaster operated the Capitol, at Woodstock, and later a deal was made with L. Clavir, who had Russian Film distribution under the trademark of Cosmopolitan Films, for the Woodstock Theatre. Pat Greenless had a little theatre called the Princess, which was purchased by Odeon Theatres of Canada Ltd., of which company we will later on give you the history. Mrs. McMaster made a deal with Doug Fairley to operate the Palace, at St. Catharines, and this theatre was later turned over on a lease to Odeon.

The Griffin circuit gradually passed out of the hands of the original owners, theatre by theatre, during the latter years of the life of John Griffin. Peter Griffin, a son, also passed away, but at that time only three theatres were left of the Griffin circuit.

Majestic Becomes Regent

N. L. Nathanson acquired the Majestic Theatre, in association with J. P. Bickell, a financier, who was associated with Nathanson in the operation of a theatre called the Strand, in Toronto. This was prior to the formation of the Famous Players Canadian Corporation, and when The Allens had the dominant theatre circuit in Canada.

The Majestic Theatre was renamed the Regent, and here we first meet Jack Arthur, as conductor of the Regent orchestra, with prologue, stage presentations. A new era of motion pictures was born moving toward class appeal.

"All Features"

At this period, Clarence Robson, who was so closely identified with N. L Nathanson's spectacular film career, operated an exchange which he called, "All Features", in a partnership arrangement with Mark Brook of Buffalo. Walter Kennedy left the Griffin Amusement Company to take a position as salesman with "All Features".

General Film Company

And now we approach the era of the General Film Company with a head office in Canada, on King Street, opposite the old Princess Theatre, a competitive stage show theatre of the Royal Alexandra Theatre, operated by Lawrence Solman, in a partnership with the Shuberts of Syracuse, N.Y., the latter who operated a circuit of theatres in the United States and became widely known, as producers of stage shows.

Princess Theatre Demolished

When Toronto planned to make a boulevard and roadway straight from the lake front to Queen's Park, site of the Parliament Buildings, the city of Toronto expropriated the Princess Theatre in its plans, paying about $275,000 for this property. Ray Lewis had been given the agency of this theatre and endeavoured to make a deal with N. L. Nathanson for Famous Players Corp., to acquire this theatre. The price of the sale was approximately $175,000. "N.L." did not have much confidence in this property, but later on, when the city put through its expropriation deal, "N.L." regretted the fact, that he had made a bad guess with this theatre. He did not make many bad guesses in his life, but the bad ones, were certainly very bad, for instance, his resignation as Managing Director of the Famous Players Canadian Corporation, in 1929, to form a circuit of theatres in Canada for William Fox, was in our opinion, the wrong move for "N.L." His return to Famous Players Canadian Corporation in 1933, as president, and his final resignation as president of this company, to organize General Theatres and General Theatres Investment Co. Ltd., following which Odeon Theatres of Canada Ltd. all contributed to the undermining of his health.

We have always contended that "N. L.'s" battles for control of the Famous Players Canadian Corp., of which company he was the enthusiastic and powerful promoter-organizer, in con-

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Canadian Universal Film Company, Richmond Street, Toronto.

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junction with Adolph Zukor, was a source of secret regret to him. "N.L." never admitted that he had any regrets, but it was no secret to the trade, to find "N.L." as host, on various occasions, with Ray Lewis seated sufficiently close to him so that he could begin the old-time argument with her, that he was right to have left Famous Players Canadian Corp. The argumenative quality of the Digest publisher and Editor was not among her weak points; and the guests would be regaled by evidence of this audible verbal conflict. Nevertheless, Ray Lewis always appreciated the showmanship ability of N. L. Nathanson, his marvellous retentive memory, his keen sense of business; and "N.L.", surrounded with some, who were among the "yes sir" classification, fearful to oppose the most important and powerful showman in Canada, enjoyed these tilts with the Digest Editor, who, at least said "no" to him, more frequently than she said "yes".

A Famous Story

Let us here pause for a story of the Famous Players Canadian Corporation. In a special edition of the Canadian Moving Picture Digest, called, Confederation Diamond Jubilee Number, commemorating the 60th year of the Confederation of the Provinces of Canada, we published the following story under the caption, "First Link in Famous Chain", with a sub-caption, "N. L. Nathanson sees Canada as Important Motion Picture Centre".

Early in 1916 a small group of Canadian business men met in Toronto to consider the building of a first class moving picture house in this city. Up to that time moving pictures were being shown in Toronto either in old legitimate or vaudeville houses, or in remodelled business premises. One of these business men was convinced that the motion picture Industry had not only come to stay, but had great possibilities from the standpoint of investment, providing the proper people could be interested. As a result of this, and other meetings, the first de luxe motion picture theatre in Toronto was conceived and finally took shape in the Regent Theatre, which, at that time, was considered to be the last word in moving picture house construction.

N. L. NATHANSON LEADS.

The group of business men referred to above consisted of Messrs J. P. Bickell, N. L. Nathanson, W. J. Sheppard and J. B. Tudhope, and the man who believed in the possibilities of the motion picture Industry in Canada was Mr. N. L. Nathanson. In the light of subsequent developments it is difficult to believe that this comparatively recent event really represented the inception of an idea that was to ultimately develop into the Famous Players Canadian Corporation, Limited, and the large group of Companies with which it is affiliated

PUSHING FORWARD

The business men who had financed and backed this enterprise at a time when financial interests, generally, were very skeptical, were not long content to stand still. Other theatres were acquired, notably, the Strand and Alhambra Theatres, of Toronto, and by 1919 the number of theatres operated by this group had reached twelve. The success that had attended their efforts to date had convinced them that there were really great possibilities in the moving picture business and they gradually visualized a chain of theatres stretching from coast to coast owned and operated by Canadians. The plan that was, finally, formulated was an extensive one and was one that would require a great deal of capital to carry it to completion. This plan was laid before other large financial interests in Canada, and, as a result, application was made to the Secretary of State for a charter for the Famous Players Canadian Corporation, Limited, which charter was finally issued under date of 23rd of January, 1920.

AUTHORIZED CAPITAL $15,000,000.00.

The authorized capital of the new Company was $15,000,000.00, of which amount $12,500,000.00 was issued to shareholders in every part of Canada. From the proceeds of the sale of the stock a great building program was launched and large modern motion picture houses were erected in Montreal, Toronto, Sault Ste. Marie, Winnipeg, Regina, Calgary and Vancouver, to become the nucleus of the great chain of theatres now owned or operated by the Famous Players Canadian Corporation, Limited.

Although 1920, in which year the Famous Players Canadian Corporation, Limited, came into being, was one of rather serious business depression, progress was not halted and even in that year, as in each succeeding year, the Company expanded steadily. Some idea of this development can be gathered from the following figures: Number of Theatres Owned or Operated by Famous Players Canadian Corporation, Limited.

1920	14
1921	26
1922	27
1923	37
1924	48
1925	56
1926	60
1927	82

In addition to which, the Company has substantial shareholdings in 37 other theatres, making a grand total of 119 theatres owned, operated or affiliated with the Famous Players Canadian Corporation, Limited; an enterprise inspired, promoted and managed by Canadians, with an almost entirely Canadian list of shareholders.

R. W. BOLSTAD

QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID.

During all these years the shareholders had faith in the enterprise and showed their faith by subscribing and paying for the First Preference stock issued. They have found their reward in the shape of quarterly dividends which were paid regularly during the years of depression and which they have received regularly to date. As more than 95 per cent of these shareholders reside in the Dominion of Canada they must also have derived considerable satisfaction in following the development of this Company that they were so largely responsible for. That they have been, on the whole, entirely satisfied is proven by the fact that the vast majority of the original shareholders have continued to hold their shares and, in the majority of cases, where these original shares have been sold they have been purchased by other shareholders.

THE MASTER-DIRECTOR

The company has been particularly fortunate in the personnel of those responsible for its policies and a glance at a list of its directors is sufficient proof of this assertion. Prominent as these men are in their respective lines of endeavor, there is one on whose shoulders the great burden of responsibility has been placed, namely, Mr. N. L. Nathanson, who has been the Managing Director of the Corporation since its inception. His has been the master mind. He was the dreamer of dreams that have come true. His fellow directors would be the first to admit the truthfulness of this assertion. From the first those who were interested with him financially accepted his judgment and were content, to a large measure, that he should direct the policies of the Company, and the pre-eminent position of the Corporation of which he is the active head is proof that their confidence was justified.

Mr. Nathanson early realized that the real strength of a theatrical organization was its man power and with this thought ever in his mind he has developed, or drawn to him a staff of executives and business associates who are to a man proud of the organiztion to which they belong.

NATHANSON SHOWMANSHIP

It has been said that an organization represents its guiding factors, the Famous Players organization represents its dominant personality, Mr. Nathanson, whom most of his business associates and friends call "N.L."

No phase, or angle of the motion picture theatre problem appears beyond his capabilities to handle and solve; and his general showmanship.

Ability, gleaned from the very soil, wherein was seeded, showmanship, gives him a comprehensive and analytical insight into the various branches of our industry, government production and distribution also.

It has been said of "N.L." that he can step into any man's place in his organization, as far as his knowledge of each department is concerned. Trained like the big men of our Industry to handle many jobs in one, his present position has the ability to focus itself upon all departments, with a knowledge of their needs.

This, in brief, is the history of another typical and essential Canadian enterprise. We have used the word "essential" advisedly. It was realized that to become a nation we must feed and clothe ourselves; it is true that if we are to develop national characteristics our entertainment must be directed by Canadians. That a Canadian enterprise has been developed to take care of the third essential is but another illustration of the great development that has taken place in Canada since Confederation.

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The Canadian Picture Pioneers 1st Annual Dinner Meeting, Toronto, Nov. 13th, 1940. Reading from left to right around first table: Jake Smith; H. Rotenberg; Ambrose Theurer; Sam Glazer; Harry Allen; Sam Brint; Doug. Cooper; Abe Wilkes; Harry Painter; Harry Law; Jim O'Loghlin; Jules Bernstein; Sam Sternberg; Ben Cronk; Bill Summerville; Sam Bloom; Harry Alexander; Harry Price; Jules Allen; Harrison Patte; Tom Daley; Archie Mason; Clarence Robson; F. G. Spencer, and Sam Bloom. Second table, left to right: Alf Perry; Arthur Lee; Earl Lawson; Louis Rosenfeld; Herb Allen; Mrs. B. K. Moore; M. A. Schlesinger; Walter Kennedy; Harold Pfaff; Charley Mavety; "Pop" Phillips; Jim Boyd; Eddie Wells; George Beeston; Dave Ongley; Haskell Masters; Clair Hague; Hal Hode; Ray Lewis; Fred Pursel.

Greetings . . .

CAPAC

Composers Authors and Publishers Association of Canada Ltd.

CONGRATULATIONS

RAY LEWIS

AND MANY MORE SUCCESSFUL YEARS TO COME

* * *

SCREENCRAFT PICTURES INC.

Jacob S. Berkson - Bernard H. Mills

341 W. 44th St., NEW YORK 18, N.Y.

The Record Of Our Years

(*Continued from Page* 30)

This is a 1927 report, after seven years of operation by Famous Players Canadian Corporation as a chartered and national Dominion of Canada Film Enterprise. Since 1927, Famus Players Canadian Corporation has acquired and has built, many new theatres; has formed associations with other theatre owners in an affiliation, or a partnership arrangement, until its present status gives it the dominant theatre position in Canada, with approximately 187 theatres under its direct control, and more than another 100 theatres of which it has indirect control, through partnership, or affiliated agreements. It is a subsidiary company of Paramount Pictures Inc., to which Company's control Famous Players Canadian Corporation moved, following the dissolving of a Voting Trust agreement, in which the controlling shares were held under the voting directive of I. W. Killam, N. L. Nathanson and Adolf Zukor.

Paramount Acquire Famous Control

In a lengthy battle, in which N. L. Nathanson was an opposing factor, the share control of Famous Players Canadian Corporation went to Paramount Pictures Inc., for I. W. Killam cast his vote with Adolph Zukor and the Famous Players Canadian Corporation shareholders, who were not more than 5% of the shareholders, were not in the position to oppose the deal, although a minority shareholders protective association was formed at the time.

Combine Investigation

The situation developed into an Investigation, which was presumably to be directed toward Famous Players Canadian Corporation, and exclusively relegated to the position of this company, but, which developed into a government investigation of a Film Combine, with Peter White, K.C., appointed as Investigating Commissioner by the Government. There was a lengthy array of legal counsel, every film company had one, or two legal representatives, including the Independents, on whose behalf Nat Taylor acted.

Ray Lewis, as a minority shareholder of Famous Players Canadian Corporation, joined the protective minority shareholder group and was positively and definitely opposed to the Paramount Pictures, Inc., control, since that company at that time, together with other big Majors of the United States, was not in a too solvent position.

Battle of the Giants

There had been one continuous battle, in the United States, between the major theatre circuits for control, and the Independents were in the midst of this battle also. Wall Street finance had stepped into the picture business, with the idea of eliminating the Pioneers, whom they did not consider as sound business operators. Several financial men were now on the directorate of the major companies; and these were caught with their pants down, when the 1929-30 crash came, toppling down financial structures, including banks, real estate, and hitting motion picture majors a solar plexus blow, because of large theatre committments, made when film stock was at its highest, following which the shares tumbled, with the majors committed to purchases at the top.

Canada was in a much stronger position. Famous Players Canadian Corporation was moving along prosperously. The British Film Industry was, also, battling for dominant theatre control, with the Ostrers and John Maxwell, Associated British Pictures Corp., in the picture.

Sound Arrives

World War I had worked a hardship on the British Film Industry and it was just getting on its feet with production, when Sound revolutionized motion pictures and left the British Film Industry with a great deal of money tied up in Silent Films, for which there was no market. The British Film background is important, in relationship to the Canadian Film Story, since William Fox had bought into Gaumont-British, thinking that when his company paid over about £4,000,000, approximately twenty million dollars, to Isidor Ostrer, the banker, his company was purchasing for control. What William Fox really received was 49½%, he lost out on the control by a small margin through the set-up of the Metropolis-Bradford Company which held 65% of the Gaumont-British interests, and buying the control of this 65% it left William Fox short of about 1½% of his 51%. The 35% of Gaumont-British, was in the hands of minority shareholders, and after the round-up, it appears that Sir Wm. Jury, with about 1%, held the balance of power which he did not swing to Fox.

CONGRATULATIONS
To
THE DIGEST
on its
Thirtieth Anniversary

* * *

MR. & MRS. S. HAMER
ARCADIAN THEATRE
TORONTO

The Canadian Motion Picture battle became involved in a British Film distribution battle, and Mr. White's report, which said very little concerning the exchange of Famous Players Canadian shares for Paramount-Publix shares, on a four to one basis, had a good deal to say about a Film Combine directed against the Independents and the exclusion of British Films from the Canadian Market. In this phase of development, Ray Lewis was not interested since, as personal representative of Jules and J. J. Allen, she had, in 1919, journeyed to London, England, to purchase British Films for Canadian exhibition, and found at that time, that the British producers were more interested in an American Film Market, than a Canadian one, the policy at that time, with British producer-distributors, was to make a deal in the United States, including Canadian Rights.

Ray Lewis in England

Ray Lewis campaigned in England, through a series of articles, in the Kinematograph, for the sale of British pictures to Canada direct. S. W. Smith had left Western Canada, where he was employed by The Allens, to open up a direct contact for the purchase of British pictures for Canada, in England. During the war years, 1915 to 1918, Sam Smith, with Lord Beaverbrook's co-operation, sent into Canada, such pictures as "Ypres"; "The Battle of the Somme"; "The Battle of the Marne"; "The Better 'Ole", and later on came the Betty Balfour series, and a number of good, and some very poor examples of British pictures. The Canadian Film Market was not sufficiently well established to take care of the poorer quality of British motion pictures, with their unknown stars, producers, and with little backing of publicity to put them over. The poor ones killed the beginning of a good British Film Market.

J. D. Williams built the first important British studio for John Maxwell's B.I.P. product, and British pictures were beginning to look up, when the Sound era came, which again pushed them behind the American Film Market.

Gainsborough Pictures in Canada

Regal Films Limited, of which N. L. Nathanson was the president, was distributing British pictures. Ray Lewis promoted a deal between C. M. Woolfe, of General Flim Distributors, whereby Gainsborough Pictures, under the supervision of Michael (Mickey) Balcon, went to Regal Films Ltd., for distribution in Canada. S. W. Smith finalized the deal.

Not directly, nor indirectly, did Ray Lewis influence an investigation of the Canadian Motion Picture Industry, but became the unwilling "goat" in this investigation, which was the result of a back-fire for those, who were directly responsible, and who received more than they had bargained for.

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When the province of Ontario, under the leadership of Attorney-General Price, directed, that there should be a prosecution of the Combine Interests. N. L. Nathanson organized the entire Canadian Industry for its defence.

Ray Lewis, during the commissioner's investigation, had given evidence, but when the prosecution proceedings commenced, refused to be a witness for the Crown.

It so happened, that there was an influenza epidemic in Toronto at the time of the Combine hearings and Ray Lewis was one of the victims. She had been subpoenaed as a witness for the Crown, but had advised the Crown, previously, that she was not interested in a Combine Investigation, and that she would not give evidence.

During some of the court sessions, Independent Exhibitors were called, who depended on the Crown to steer them through the array of Legal Batteries aimed in their direction, not any of them having legal representation. But in the developments, these exhibitors, that is those who had a grievance and who were willing to tell the world about it, found themselves under such cross-examination, that they were lucky to escape jail sentences, or fines, for perjury, which they in confusion, but innocently committed.

Ray Lewis vs. The Crown

In a private battle, between Ray Lewis and the Crown, the editor and publisher of The Digest, in no uncertain terms expressed her opinion of the whole proceedings. Despite the fact, that a message had been sent, advising that Ray Lewis was ill, her name was called and the Crown requested an order from the court to force her to give evidence. The message was brought to Ray Lewis, whereupon, she took up her bed and walked to the court house; and in an ante-room of the court room, she told those most interested, that if she was put into the witness box, she would tell the whole story behind this Combine Investigation. She evidently made an impression, for in the recess of the court proceedings, the Court invited her to come out and have a cup of tea, sent her home thereafter in a taxi, and forgot to call her as a witness for the Crown.

The Combine Investigation cost the Industry hundreds of thousands of dollars, to no purpose.

Famous Players Canadian Corporation's shares were exchanged for Paramount-Publix, and whether this was good, or bad luck for Paramount-Publix, the latter company went into voluntary bankruptcy and was reorganized and refinanced. Securing the controlling share interest in Famous Players Canadian Corporation, was one of the smartest moves which Paramount has made, and it was largely due to the influence of Adolph Zukor, I. W. Killam, and J. P. Bickell, that this was made possible.

Canadians Make Money

The Canadian group of financiers, who were identified with the formation of Famous Players Canadian Corporation, J. P. Bickell, Sir Herbert Holt, I. W. Killam, Tudhope, Sheppard, the Hon. W. D. Ross, made money on their investment, plenty of it, but gradually these men took their profits and disposed of their shares, under the influence of N. L. Nathanson. When Adolph Zukor disposed of his shares, in the Voting Trust agreement, it is said, he made a million dollars on the deal, but it is, also said that betwixt and between, "N.L." made a million dollars, also. What "N.L." made appears to have started trouble between Adolph Zukor and "N.L.", and some of the financial associates of "N.L.".

"N.L." Resigns

However, when "N.L." resigned the Managing Directorship of the Famous Players Canadian Corporation, and Arthur Cohen became the managing director, Sir Herbert Holt, and Hon. W. D. Ross resigned as members of the Board of Famous Players Canadian Corporation with him.

Fox Plans For Canada

But "N.L." had made his plans, William Fox was already planning for a Canadian chain of theatres, with "N.L." as its directing genius. What happened to William Fox, has been told by Upton Sinclair, in the story of William Fox, the latter, who in a battle between banking interests, patents companies, involving Sound and Electrical interlocking directorates, was forced to sell out control of his company. Fox was unable to secure $30,000,000 in loans for necessary plans he had set into operation, including the purchase of the Poli Circuit, the purchase of a 49½% interest in the Loew's circuit, and the Gaumont-British deal. The repayment of the loans was to be made in the usual manner of an issue of new stock.

Fox received $18,000,000 for his voting stock, H. L. Clarke, of the Insull interests, of Chicago, making the purchase. This put the finishing touch on the William Fox expansion plans for Canada, for although Fox remained on the Board of Directors, he eventually left the company and Winfield Sheehan, for many years associated with Fox, was appointed to the position of production head.

Joseph Kennedy Survey

It is here of interest to note, that Joseph Kennedy, made a preliminary survey of Paramount, but reported, in Time, July 27th, 1936, that a survey was a waste of time under present management conditions. Paramount-Publix had been reorganized and was now Paramount Pictures Inc. J. E. Otterson was its president. The Kennedy Report was instrumental in influencing the retirement of Otterson from the Board, and his replacement by Barney Balaban, who was an experienced showman.

The history of Barney Balaban's directorship of Paramount Pictures Inc., for the past decade, is known to the Trade. Paramount Pictures Inc., has not only paid off its bonds and indebt-

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Motion Picture Delegation at Victoria, B.C., assembled for discussion of impending legislation, June 5th, 1912. From left to right: Mr. Christie, Majestic, Victoria; Ivan Shortcoat, Mission, North Bend; Bill Hansher, Maple Leaf, Vancouver; J. Holdsworth, Mutual Films, Vancouver; W. Carriveau, Grandview, Vancouver. In rear: F. L. Kerr, Edison, New Westminster; J. R. Muir, Dominion, Vancouver; W. P. Dewees, Princess, Vancouver; Syd Taube, Canadian Film Exchange, and Mr. Meagher, General Films.

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edness, but has millions in the bank, and in advance productions already paid.

John Fitzgibbons, President

Famous Players Canadian Corporation, under the presidency of John J. Fitzgibbons, has noticeably expanded and prospered. Mr. Fitzgibbons was appointed to this important office, when "N.L." resigned, to form his own companies, including Odeon Theatres of Canada Ltd.

Famous Players Canadian Corporation, received a cheque for $5,000,000 recently, following the sale of 375,000 shares of Treasury stock. This enabled Famous Players to pay off its bonds and other debts and gave the company a wider Canadian shareholders' interest. The company's policy has been directed toward good-will within the Trade and in its Public Relations. This has paid Famous Players Canadian Corporation handsome dividends, in public support and confidence, for following the announcement of the issue of 375,000 shares, the public demand oversubscribed the amount of shares offered by about 250%.

Canadian Picture Pioneers

When the Canadian Picture Pioneers was formed, at Toronto, with provincial branches across Canada, John Fitzgibbons accepted the post of Public Relations officer and following the nation-wide development of the Canadian Motion Picture War Services committee, John J. Fitzgibbons became the National Chairman.

These offices were not accepted by the president of Famous Players as an empty gesture, for John Fitzgibbons functioned personally in these respective offices and lent the support of Famous Players Canadian Corp.'s personnel and the company's theatres and facilities, through man-power and services, to the work of these two respective associations, both formed during World War II years.

BARNEY BALABAN

Arthur Rank Here

Into this Canadian Film picture comes Arthur Rank, now the controlling interest in Odeon Theatres of Canada Ltd., and of distributing units which are numerous and varied. Now, who is Joseph Arthur Rank, D.L., J.P.?

First, if there is any truth in the quotation, "a man is known by the company he keeps", let us see in what company Mr. Rank travels. The Rt. Hon. Lord Portal of Laverstoke, who in 1936 was chairman of a group of important paper concerns, is a director of General Film Distributors Ltd., of which company J. Arthur Rank is, to-day, managing chairman. General Film Distributors Ltd., is a Universal group, the founder of which was C. M. Woolfe, since deceased. In 1935 C. M. Woolfe resigned from the Gaumont-British Board of Directors. In 1936, having formed the G.F.D., at the time of the General Cinema Finance Corporation's control, Rank's English Interests secured an important interest in the American Universal Pictures Inc.

Rank's Affiliations

General Cinema Finance Corp., Ltd. had, in 1936, a nominal capital of £1,225,000 with 1,175,000 preference shares of £1 and 1,000,000 deferred shares of 1 shilling. While we are on the subject of J. Arthur Rank, who is planning the construction of at least twenty new theatres in Canada, let us casually survey some of his motion picture activities, as these relate themselves to our Canadian Film Industry. Arrangements have been made for the distribution of British pictures, controlled by Rank Interests, through Empire-Universal, Eagle-Lion, Monogram, with some pictures distributed through United Artists, and an equal array of distribution channels in the United States, not overlooking theatre affiliations and distributing arrangements in India, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and France; a reciprocal agreement in respect to the distribution of Russian films in Great Britain; a David Selznick production of "Mary Magdalene" with Ingrid Bergman as star; a distributing arrangement with RKO Radio Pictures in respect to French productions; the importation of French pictures into Canada, the introduction of Movie Clubs, in Canada, the construction of a studio for the production of short subjects, educationals, and commercials; and the import of British equipment, into Canada, which equipment will be marketed under the management of Oscar R. Hanson and Edward Harris, the latter the uncle of Paul Nathanson.

More Rank Companies

In 1936, there was a published report of the various companies in which Mr. Rank held directorship. Are you wondering if there is any "grist for the mill"? Here is the list, and glancing over them, we would conclude, that J. Arthur Rank can afford to invest in Motion Pictures: B. I. Transport Co. Ltd.; Birkenhead Silo Co. Ltd.; Buchanan's Flour Mills Ltd.; Ernest Joyce Ltd.; Horace Marshall and Sons Ltd.; K. O. Cereals Ltd.; Methodist Publications Ltd.; News Agents & Publishers Supply Co. Ltd.; Pinewood Studios Ltd.; Rank (Ireland) Ltd.; Riverside Milling Co. Ltd.; Roberts & Wiate Ltd.; Springfield Stores Ltd.; Universal Pictures Corporation of America; Yoma (England) Ltd.; Yoma Ltd. Another director, associated with Mr. Rank, is Paul Lindenburg, International banker, who, in 1936 was the managing director of S. Japhet & Co. Ltd. and a formidable list of financial and investment companies, including Trust & Loan Co. of Canada, Ltd.

Leslie William Farron chartered accountant of Sissons, Bersey, Gain, Vincent & Co., who is chairman of Associated Papers Mills Ltd., etc., etc., also Deputy Chairman and Director of approximately 22 different companies, is another Rank director.

Lord Luke of Pavenham, chairman and managing director of Bovril Ltd., National Bank of Australasia Ltd.; and about ten other companies.

The five directors of General Cinema Finance Corp. are on the Board of approximately seventy-five important financial, or industrial enterprises, of some of which they are managing directors. All of the Cinema Finance Corp. directors, with the exception of Lord Luke, are on the Board of G. F. D., with some additional names.

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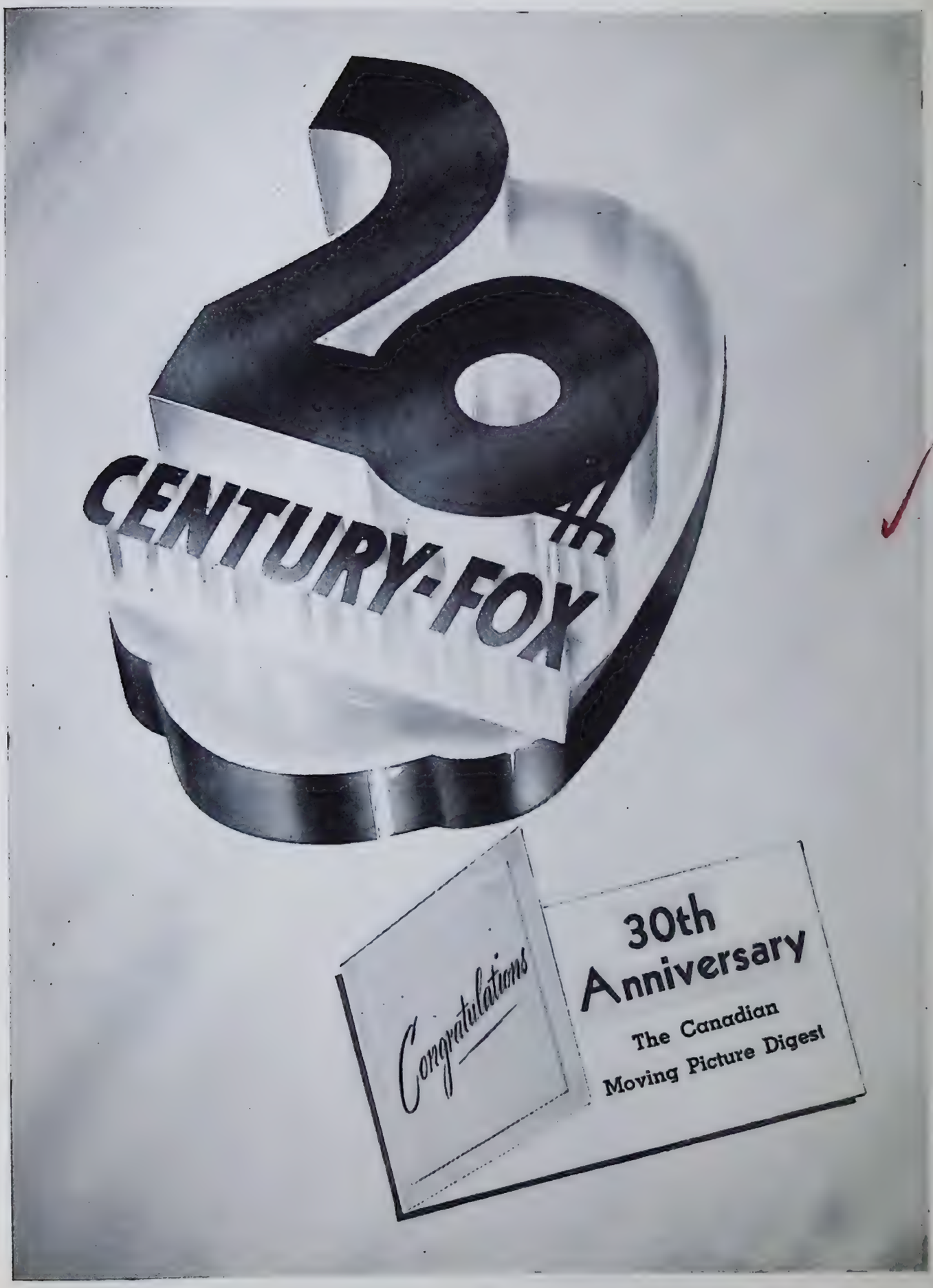
JOHN DAVIS


20th
CENTURY-FOX
Congratulations
30th
Anniversary
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Rank Around The World

It is not our intention to go into the financial background of British Film Enterprise which would make a separate and astounding story. Our purpose, of following on the surface, the J. Arthur Rank background, is that you may form some idea of why Mr. Rank was able to come to Canada, on the fringe of the war years, to send representatives around the world, that is the motion picture trade centres of the world, and to accomplish what he has accomplished, impeded, somewhat, by geographical boundaries, and wartime restrictions. At the time J. Arthur Rank became associated with the late C. M. Woolfe, of General Film Distributors Ltd., whose son John, is now on the directorate of this company, General Film Distributors, in addition to Universal Pictures, handled the following producers' product: British National Films Ltd., in which Lady Yule was financially interested, (we believe that J. Arthur Rank resigned from the Board of this Company); Capitol Film Corp. Ltd.; Cecil Film Productions Ltd.; City Film Corp. Ltd.; Grafton Films Ltd.; Herbert Wilcox Productions Ltd.

Since 1936, J. Arthur Rank's Film Interests have vastly increased, for it is since then that he acquired the Gaumont-British Film Interests, and Odeon Theatres Ltd. (England), following the death of Oscar Deutsch, its promoter and founder.

There is no registered record of United Artists holdings in Odeon Theatres Ltd., but Oscar Deutsch was credited with a statement, that United Artists had a 50% interest.

Alexander Korda Interests

The purchase of British Lion Films Corp., from the Estate of the late S. W. Smith, and the Paul Nathanson interests, by Alexander Korda's London Films, reveals that our Canadian Film history is linked up with this company, for on the Board of British Lion Films Corp., was Andrew Holt, son of the late Sir Herbert Holt, the latter who helped in the financing of Famous Players Canadian Corp., and on the Board of British Lion Films Corp. was the late N. L. Nathanson, whose memory is so closely identified with Famous Players Canadian Corp., with Regal Films, Ltd., and with many film enterprises which Oscar Hanson managed for him and for Paul Nathanson.

Korda's Quality Pictures

We are familiar with the name of Alexander Korda, whose British films made even the American film market sit up and take notice. Korda's name became synonymous with Quality Productions. He released through United Artists, with which company he was closely identified, being a substantial shareholder. Recently, Korda sold his interests in this company. Some of the Korda productions were released through Regal Films Ltd., a deal which "N.L." personally put through.

Wilcox With Korda

Herbert Wilcox, who recently linked himself in a deal with London Films, the latter company which we reported has acquired British Lion Films Corp., is well-known in Canada, where he travelled extensively, with Anna Neagle, star of many British pictures of outstanding merit. Both Anna Neagle and Herbert Wilcox have endeared themselves to Canadians for their direct participation in our War Effort. Anna Neagle made a film for the Canadian Red Cross which received distribution in about 90%, at least, of our Canadian theatres. Associated Screen News Ltd., did the production and made the prints at their laboratory, in Montreal, under the direction of B. E. Norrish, president of the company. "N.L." had a direct interest in Associated Screen News Ltd., and backing this company is the Canadian Pacific Railway. Herbert Wilcox and Anna Neagle, also, put on a show to help the establishment of Air-Cadet Training, in co-operation with Air-Marshall Billy Bishop. Famous Players Canadian Corp. loaned Jack Arthur to help in the production. Roly Young of the Globe & Mail and Jack Karr of the Toronto Daily Star travelled with this show, and Famous Players made available its theatres for this fund-raising caravan.

War Services Committee

"N.L." Nathanson, placed the facilities of his company at the disposal of all War Efforts, for "N.L." was, until the time of his death, National Chairman of the Canadian Motion Picture War Services, with the late Clair Hague its vice-chairman, and Ray Lewis, secretary-treasurer. Following the death of "N.L.", John J. Fitzgibbons was appointed National Chairman, R. W. Bolstad, Treasurer, Thomas Bragg, vice-chairman, and Ray Lewis continued, as Secretary, with Morris Stein, Chairman of Public Relations and Jimmy Nairn (Famous Players) and Clare Appel (Odeon Theatres Ltd.) directing the publicity, assisted by a committee which included representation from the publicity and exploitation departments of the Canadian Distributors. All major companies, as well as presidents of exhibitor associations, and affiliated industries, were on the Board; and the committee members included practically everyone associated with the Motion Picture Industry in Canada. Each of the producer-distributors co-operated in the production of the Victory Loan Short subjects and each of the distributors, through the directorship of Col. John Cooper and later, Eddie Wells of the Motion Picture Distributors Association, directed the distribution of newsreel clips, the Victory Loan Short subjects and the necessary advertising. This War Effort was givn to the Government free, and there were no salaries attached to the machinery of operation, the distributors, the circuit theatres and exhibitor organizations financing the entire war services project, for the duration of the war. When we finally break-down the operating costs of this vast and important Canadian Film Industry War Effort and the Canadian Picture Pioneers War Effort, the latter association which was responsible for the formation of the Canadian Motion Picture War Services Committee, the expense involved in this nation-wide project of International and World-Wide importance, will prove astonishingly small.

EARL LAWSON

It appears that we have marched ahead of our story, being carried away with recent film developments and now we must like a crab go backwards to go forward, so please do not "crab".

"Memories"

When the editor and publisher, of the Canadian Moving Picture Digest, publishes her book of "Memories", she will fill, in consecutive order, the open spaces which must occur in this narrative, that is if the publication of this story is to be included in the 30th Anniversary Number of the Digest.

Let us then forget the present to delve into our past. We were some time ago talking of Walter Kennedy, and Clarence Robson, the latter who left Famous Players Canadian to join up with N. L. Nathanson. Walter Kennedy left the General Film Company and joined with Charlie Stephenson, who was in business with Arthur Cohen and the late Eli Marks. Eli Marks became identified with The Al-

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Highlights Of Film History Through Two Decades Of Sound

JAY L. SMITH

Midsummer of 1926, word began to reach the Motion Picture Industry of a new gadget that would synchronize Sound with motion picture action. The writer was just entering his teens, but being born into the Industry, so to speak, recalls fairly well, those first early days of the introduction of Sound into the motion picture. However, it would be presumptuous for this writer to attempt to relate the highlights of motion picture history, prior to that time, and therefore we leave the years from 1915, when The Canadian Moving Picture Digest was established, to the middle of 1926, to The Editor to cover in her history of the pioneer silent days of the Silver Screen. In the following pages you will find our attempt to cover the highlights of motion picture history through two decades of Sound Films, as recorded in the pages of The Digest.

J. L. SMITH,
Associate Editor

JAKE BERMAN

1926

DIGEST editor reports on new Sound invention; states "Silence Is Golden" . . . M-G-M announces 3 Lon Chaney pictures for new season . . . Milton Sills in First National's "Puppets" doing smash biz . . . Regal featuring C. D. DeMille's "Volga Boatman", Rupert Julian's "Silence", Al Christie's "Up In Mabel's Room", P.D.C. productions . . . Emil Jannings in "Variety" top Paramount grosser . . . Winnipeg exchange managers and exhibitors hold meeting to form united front for tolerant censorship and abolition of Amusement Tax . . . J. P. O'Loghlin, Fox General Manager, B. F. Lyon, Warner General Manager, Morris Milligan, Paramount General Manager, visit West Coast . . . Joe Lieberman appointed by Sam Morris to manage St. John branch, Warner Bros.; Wolfe Cohen goes to Winnipeg . . . Mary Pickford and Doug. Fairbanks back from European jaunt . . . Lillian Gish and John Gilbert in M-G-M's "La Boheme" record-breaker . . . Paramount's "Mantrap", with Clara Bow and Ernest Torrance, defeats heatwave and subway strike in N.Y. opening . . . Crown Prince and Princess of Sweden to visit Hollywood . . . Digest fights for revoke of amusement tax . . . Ray Lewis resigns as secretary, Ont. division, MPTOA; is appointed advisory secretary . . . Central Federation of Women's Clubs demand "Clean Movies" . . . PDC presents Jetta Goudal and Lionel Barrymore in "Paris At Midnight" . . . Louis B. Mayer signs Greta Garbo to new M-G-M contract . . . Warner's present Ernst Lubitch's " So This Is Paris", starring Monte Blue, Patsy Ruth Miller and Lillyan Tashman . . . First National's "Men of Steel" co-stars Milton Sills and Doris Kenyon . . . Doug. Fairbanks in "The Black Pirate" opens Regent Theatre, Toronto . . . Industry plans huge rally in Toronto; exhibitors and distributors urged to attend . . . "Ten Commandments" tops Exhibitors' Herald list of Ten Best pix . . . Paramount presenting Thomas Meighan in "The Canadian", a natural for Dominion theatres . . . Paramount Week celebrated in U.S. and Canada . . . distributor contracts forbid double-features . . Montreal theatres enjoying boom . . . Vitaphone has first public presentation, Warner Theatre, N.Y. . . . Bill Redpath of Pathescope, back in Toronto after trip to Alaska . . . P. C. Taylor announces F.B.O. Co. taking over entire 5th floor, Film Bldg., Toronto . . . Charles Dentlebeck turns over equipment agencies to General Electrics, joins sales forces of that company . . . Valentino's "Son of the Sheik", U.A. release, opens . . . Rex Ingram's "Mare Nostrum" heads M-G-M releases . . J. Berman of U.A. back from Vancouver trip . . . Alberta Indies form association; Stan Bailey, Camrose, Alta., President; Art Entwistle, Vice-President; W. J. Long, Rialto, Edmonton, Secretary-Treasurer . . . Archie Cameron promoted from Lyceum, Winnipeg, to management College, Winnipeg . . . James Hall cast opposite Pola Negri in Paramount's "Hotel Imperial" . . . Paramount's "Beau Geste" stars Ronald Colman, Noah Beery, Neil Hamilton and William Powell . . . Harry Alexander runs bathing beauty contest at Park Theatre, Toronto . . . Rudolph Valentino passes . . . Warner's offer Vitaphone in conjunction with "Don Juan", starring John Barrymore . . . Ray Tubman leases Regent, Ottawa, from Famous Players . . . Barrett C. Kiesling, Cecil B. DeMille representative, addresses Winnipeg exhibitors . . . Ont. exhibitors send deputation to Parliament Bldgs. to petition for removal of Amusement Tax . . . F-P Eastern and Western Divisions hold conventions; "$1,000,000 Year" slogan. . . . Harry M. Warner addresses exhibitor rally in Toronto. . . . Famous Players-Lasky to distribute three British National productions. . . . Columbia Pictures absorb Independent Films of Canada; new company called Columbia Pictures of Canada; Louis Rosenfeld, General Manager. . . . N. Rothstein building two new theatres in Winnipeg; Henry Morton, one. . . . Warner's "Hero of the Big Snows", starring Rin-Tin-Tin, cleaning up. . . . J. M. Franklin, Keith's Theatre, Ottawa, spokesman for Ont. Exhibitors. . . . Uptown Theatre, Toronto, opens. . . . "Ben Hur" opens Princess, Toronto. . . . Digest announcement of new Vitaphone process inspires J. J. Gaudet, Capitol, Summerside, P.E.I. to visit New York in effort to obtain invention for his theatre . . . Beatty Bros. building new theatre at Red Deer, Alta. . . . British pictures getting release in Canada and U.S. . . . Carl Laemmle, Universal chief, recovering from serious illness. . . . Dorothy Gish in "Nell Gwynn" great British hit. . . . Educational cleans up with Tunney-Dempsey Fight pix. . . . Industry holds Golf Tournament, Thornhill Golf Club; Jack Hunter wins Eddie Cantor Prize.

JOHN GILBERT

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Highlights Of Film History

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. . . Red Grange in "One Minute to Play" piles up records for F.O.B. . . M-G-M re-issue "Four Horsemen". . . . F. G. Spencer recovers from serious illness. . . . Universal's "Michael Strogoff" powerful b.o. . . . Harry Warner visits Winnipeg . . . . Quebec bans "Nell Gwynn". . . . P. J. Nolan, Rex Theatre, Ottawa, running for Mayor. . . . P. A. Mills invents colored pictures. . . . Fox Films buys DeForest Phonofilm, synchronization invention. . . . Eddie Cantor in Paramount's "Kid Boots" a comedy sensation. . . . M-G-M's "Bardleys The Magnificent" hailed as John Gilbert's greatest picture. . . . Mayor Jimmy Walker heads welcoming committee for Carl Laemmle, back from European rest-cure. . . . report F.B.O. to build theatre circuit in Canada. . . . Ontario Government abolishes amusement tax on admissions under 25c. . . . M. J. O'Brien, Ottawa Valley Circuit, seriously ill. . . . Quebec bans two more British pictures, "Chu Chin Chow" and "Reveille". . . . Bill McKnight managing Bloor, Toronto. . . . Clair Hague on trip to Winnipeg. . . . Famous Players to erect $15,000,000 studio in B.C. to make British Quota pictures . . . F-P pays $2.00 dividend. . . . Clarence Markell plans new Cornwall theatre. . . . Joseph Pacquin opens Capitol, Hull. . . . George Law, Universal's western representative, reports theatre biz up 50% . . . report $500,000 theatre for downtown Toronto, south of Pantages. . . . Lillian Gish in M-G-M's "Scarlet Letter" in 4th month, N.Y. . . . MPTOA holds convention in Toronto. . . . Hiram Abrams, U.A. President, passes. . . . "Ted" Gould appointed Western Division Manager, Regal Films; "Hilly" Cass, Winnipeg manager. . . . Al Lichtman elected President, U.A. . . . Bill Bach, Canadian District Manager, First National, transferred to England. . . . Antoinette Ward succeeds Thomas Forhan as manager, Tivoli, St. Thomas . . . Paramount Theatre Bldg. opened in New York. . . . Jules Mastbaum, Stanley Theatres, passes. . . . G. A. Lester, King Theatre, Toronto, and R. F. Little, Roseland Theatre, East Angus, Que, winner of First National Contest. . . . "Big Parade" in 2nd year on Broadway.

EARL HAMMONS

1927

W D. ROSS, F-P director, appointed Lt. Governor of Ont. . . . Jack Arthur lauded for "Sinbad" stage presentation, Uptown, Toronto . . . Rivoli, Montreal opens . . . Bedford Theatre, North Toronto, opens . . . "Tell It To The Marines", with Lon Chaney, and "The Fire Brigade" two top M-G-M hits . . . Wally Beery and Raymond Hatton packing them in with Paramount's "We're in the Navy Now" . . . Warner's present Sydney Chaplin in "The Better 'Ole" . . . Sam Bloom and Sam Fine start new circuit in Toronto, known as "B & F Theatres" . . . C. W. Montrose to erect movie studio at Oakville . . . theatre owners startled by license fee demands of Canadian Performing Right Society . . . Charles Pettijohn, Hays' Office trouble-shooter, visits Toronto . . . fire at Laurier Palace Theatre, Montreal, results in death for 77 children . . . "It" is a hit, starring Clara Bow . . . Toronto boy, George Young, wins Wrigley Marathon Swim; offered movie contract . . . M-G-M's "Flesh and the Devil", Garbo-Gilbert, breaks record, Capitol, N.Y. . . . . Harold Lloyd's latest for Paramount, "Kid Brother" released . . . Laurier Palace fire puts all theatres under rigid inspection by Fire Chiefs; theatre staffs hold regular fire drills . . . Regal to release, "Mons", prize British war film . . . Ben Geldsaler appointed supervisor, F-P Toronto Suburban theatres; Jack Laver moves from the York to the new Bedford; Harry Smith goes from the Teck to the Classic; Jack Quarrington moves from the Beaver to the Parkdale . . . "Variety" involved in censorship dispute; claim two versions made . . . DeMille presents "The King of Kings" . . . Sask. exhibs get repeal of law prohibiting showing of fight films . . . F-P take over Trent, Trenton . . . wave of theatre robberies hits Eastern Canada . . . George Young on personal appearance tour Canadian theatres . . . S. Coplan, Ottawa exhibitor, heads United Jewish Relief Drive . . . damage claims totalling $500,000 filed against City of Montreal for permitting Laurier Palace to remain open without license . . . Jack Hunter succeeds A. C. Benson as Toronto manager, Famous-Players-Lasky . . . First National signs Babe Ruth to movie contract . . . Capitol, Winnipeg celebrates 7th anniversary . . rumours hint Orpheum and Keith-Albee circuits to merge with two movie circuits . . . George Law appointed general manager Universal's Canadian theatres . . . Charlie Murray and Chester Conklin in First National's "McFaddens Flats" a riot of laughs . . Famous reported paying $300,000 for screen rights to "Abie's Irish Rose" . . . M-G-M and Paramount announce Short Subjects program . . . Publix Theatres Limited, new Canadian company; hint new company may take over F-P theatres . . . T. H. Moorehead expanding circuit; now has five houses . . . Roxy, N.Y., hailed as last word in picture palaces . . . Canadian provinces lifting amusement tax . . . Belsize, North Toronto, opens . . . Joseph Schenck elected President, U.A. . . . Ottawa publishes "White List" of films suitable for children . . . Joseph P. Kennedy, President, F.B.O., arranges series of lectures on movies at Harvard . . . William Fox buys Roxy Theatre, N.Y. . . . Pathe News released in Canada by Regal . . . 28 suburban theatres in Toronto presenting double-bills . . . Gary Cooper new Paramount Western star, introduced in "Arizona Bound" . . . Eastwood Theatre, Toronto, opens . . . British Empire Films formed in Canada; to produce Bruce Bairnsfather's "Carry On Sergeant" at Trenton, Ont. studios . . . New Savoy, Glace Bay theatre destroyed by fire . . . Daylight Saving inaugurated in Toronto . . . Pathe-P.D.C.-Keith Albee-Orpheum merger finalized . . . seven newsreels now being released in Canada; Fox-Universal-Pathe - Educational - Metro-Paramount and Gaumont British . . . predict Vancouver to become Hollywood of Canada . . . Digest warns Wall Street getting control of Film Industry . . . Ray Lewis addresses AMPA luncheon, New York . . . Lindbergh flies Atlantic; Educational cleans up with one-reeler, "The Race to Paris" . . . Runnymede Theatre opens in Toronto . . . Harold Pfaff appointed Toronto branch manager, Educational . . . Regal executives, Arthur Cohen and Henry Nathanson attend M-G-M and Pathe-P.D.C. conventions . . . Clare Appel

RAY PECK

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Highlights Of Film History

(*Continued from Page 42*)

leaves First National, joins M-G-M at Toronto . . . Pete Woodhull elected President, MPTOA, succeeding Al Steffes . . . Raymond Peck passes . . . Fox to build 30 theatres in U.S. . . . Ottawa exhibs protest against free carnivals . . . Ned Miller, Pantages, Toronto, manager dies . . . Canada prepares for Diamond Jubilee celebrations . . . Henry Nathanson, Regal Films, and A. W. Perry, Toronto sales representative, Warner's, join wedded hosts . . . N. L. Nathanson returns from European trip . . . Digest publishes special Confederation Issue . . . U.S. Federal Commission issues "cease and desist" orders to Famous - Players - Lasky; block booking and theatre expansion bones of contention . . . . David Selznick associate producer at M-G-M . . . . Vatican official newspaper states "American Film Producers dosing the world with lethal poison" . . . Capt. Frank Badgley succeeds late Raymond Peck as director Government Movie Studio, Ottawa. . . H. R. H. Prince of Wales visits Canada . . . Carl E. Milliken, secretary MPPDA, addresses World Federation on Education, Toronto . . . Montreal Royal Commission gives Motion Pictures clean slate re moral status, but recommends children under 16 not to be admitted to movie theatres, even if accompanied by adults . . . Universal releases French film "Les Miserables" . . . Regal releasing British "Nelson" . . . Irving Sourkes manager new Auditorium Theatre, Quebec City . . . Marcus Loew passes . . . Fox's "What Price Glory" cleans up . . . John W. Toone passes . . . Hon. Arthur Meighen denies presidency of British Empire Films . . . Jules Bernstein, Loew's, Toronto, gets executive position with company in N.Y. . . . Nicholas Schenck elected president, Loew's, Inc. . . . Tunney-Dempsey fight pictures a bonaza for Educational . . . J. McManus new manager, Loew's, Toronto . . . Sam Warner passes . . . new theatres opening across Canada . . . Paramount releasing Emil Jannings' first American picture, "The Way of All Flesh" . . . Lillian Gish in M-G-M's "Annie Laurie" a treat . . . Adolph Zukor and Sidney Kent visit Toronto . . . I. W. Killam on Board of Famous Players . . . Ernest Ouimet back in Canada after long stay in California . . . Famous Players purchase control in Eastern Theatres, operating Pantages, Toronto . . . British complaining of domination of American films . . . Norma Shearer marries Irving Thalberg . . . Ramon Novarro and Norma Shearer in M-G-M's "Student Prince" top box-office draw . . . British Film Quota Bill passed . . . new British war film, "The Somme" released in Canada by Regal . . . Clare Appel appointed manager, Shea's Hippodrome, Toronto.

NORMA SHEARER

1928

UNIVERSAL celebrates 22nd Anniversary . . . Digest editor in literary battle with "Sime" Silverman, editor of "Variety" . . . Paramount starts out new season with two smash hits, "Wings" and "Beau Sabreur" . . . Col. John Cooper elected President, Toronto branch, Red Cross . . . Quebec Premier Taschereau announces law prohibiting children under 16 from attending movie houses . . . Lord Beaverbrook heads new Standard Film Company, in which Loew's and U.A. have substantial interests . . . Digest lauds National Vaudeville Artists' Association Clubhouse, New York . . . Ray Lewis condemns Brookhart Bill, predicts it will mean Government control of Film Industry . . . "Uncle Tom's Cabin" Universal anniversary hit . . . Palace, New York, runs all-English vaudeville bill . . . Keith-Albee-Orpheum buys big interest in F.B.O.; Joseph Kennedy engineers deal . . . Quebec in arms against proposed Sunday closing of theatres . . . Consolidated Theatres, Montreal, offer shares to public; J. Arthur Hirsch heads company . . . Educational acquires Tiffany-Stahl productions for Canadian release; "Passion", with Emil Jannings and Pola Negri, and "Wild Geese", with Belle Bennett, first two big pictures in deal . . . Paramount offers $1,000 in prizes for best campaigns on "Tillie's Punctured Romance" . . . Bill Gehring, Fox Canadian representative, launches Fox-Grainger Week . . . Regal Week huge success . . . Col. Cooper elected President, CMPDA . . . Famous building 2,500-seat Capitol Theatre, Ottawa; cost $1,125,000 . . . Paramount's "Last Command", starring Emil Jannings, new high mark for screen . . . fire destroys Castle Theatre, Guelph . . . Loew's, Toronto, damaged by fire . . . Lon Chaney terrific in "Laugh, Clown, Laugh" . . . Al Jolson sings in Warner's "Jazz Singer"; result pandemonium in film industry; "Talkies" now a reality; all companies announce plans for production of sound pictures . . . "Tenderloin", Warner picture starring Dolores Costello, half-talkie, half-titles . . . "The Love Song", starring Lupe Velez, first U.A. "talkie". . . . Dan Krendel, formerly with Exhibitors' Review and Theatre Management, joins Warner's Winnipeg sales force, under Wolfe Cohen . . . Digest predicts public will tire of "talkies" after novelty wears off; OH, MOTHER! . . . Film Daily states Ray Lewis bound for Vienna for major operation; report vehemently denied in Digest . . J. D. Williams heads for England to talk British Film Industry into "talkies" . . . Nicholas Schenck announces M-G-M to release Movietone News Reel . . . Joseph M. Schenck states "Trade Paper advertising is a constructive force, a powerful economic factor"; Digest headlines Editorial on subject, "A Joseph Has Come to Judgment" . . . U.A.'s "Ramona" still going strong in 8th week at Tivoli, Toronto . . . Educational releasing Herbert Wilcox's controversial British production, "Dawn", starring Sybil Thorndike . . . N. L. Nathanson announces sound equipment to be installed in Capitol and Metropolitan, Winnipeg . . . 125 sound features minimum for 1928-29 . . . Tivoli, Toronto, Uptown, Toronto, Capitol, Montreal, Capitol, Calgary, Capitol, Vancouver, and new Capitol, Ottawa, to be equipped for sound . . . Henry Nathanson predicts "Talkies are here to stay" . . . J. M. Franklin, manager Keith Theatre, Ottawa, promoted to Canadian representative for K-A-O Corp. . . . first M-G-M all-talkie to be "Trial of Mary Dugan" . . . British film studios booming . . . Mayor Jimmy Walker warns movie industry to keep out of politics . . . Ray Lewis in London; pans Bernard Shaw's Movietone newsreel speech . . . Tom Logan, manager, Capitol, London, Ont., dies suddenly . . . Gaumont-British of Canada formed . . .

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J. M. FRANKLIN

The Record Of Our Years

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lens and Arthur Cohen in the operation of the Casino Theatre, on Queen St.

"The Fire Brigade"

Cohen and Stephenson had a picture, the title of which was, "The Fire Brigade," also Mabel Normand, in "Mickey", both pictures which were box-office winners. "Mickey" had a run of about sixteen weeks at the Grand Opera House, on Adelaide St., Toronto, the theatre famous in our city's history for the presentation of such stage productions as Sir Henry Irving and Ellen Terry's "King Arthur", "The Merchant of Venice", "Richard III", etc.

Mabel Normand Tragedy

Mabel Normand was born in Quebec and she died in a Sanitarium in California. Her life, a brillant one, was full of tragedy, death appeared to be upon the screen of her life, with two Hollywood murders, which forced her retirement. She was educated in a convent in Montreal and showed an early ability in painting and music. Her family became impoverished and she was forced to leave school, going to New York with her family, where she obtained work as an artist's model. Her vivacious personality attracted the attention of such artists as Dana Gibson, James Montgomery Flagg, Coles Phillips. The Digest files of 1926, record that she accidentally met about the year of 1911, Anna Q. Nillson and Alice Joyce, who were making pictures for the Infant Industry, in New York. She met David Wark Griffith, and was given some small parts in the pictures he was producing. The Keystone Comedies became interested in her work and she was sent to California, where she acquired popularity, and eventually became a star as a Mack Sennett Bathing Beauty. Her first big success in "Mickey" was as co-star with Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle, who at the pinnacle of his screen fame, similar to the position held by Mabel Normand, was forced by public opinion to retire from the screen.

Normand & Arbuckle

In many Triangle-Keystone Comedies, such as "He Did and He Didn't", "Fatty and Mabel Adrift", Mabel and Roscoe played opposite each other in a series of laugh-provoking situations. In other pictures, such as "Keystone Mabel", she carried the laughing honours herself. Her most widely known successes, included, "Molly O" and "Sis Hopkins". Referring to the sensational murders, with which her name was connected and which proved most unfortunate world-wide publicity for her, was the murder of the film director, William Desmond Taylor, who was found shot to death, in his bungalow, Feb. 2nd, 1922. It appears that Mabel Normand was the last person who visited him. Mary Miles Minter's name came into this murder mystery, and she, too, was forced to retire from the screen. Mabel claimed that she had called on Taylor to retrieve some letters which she had written him. The murder still remains an unsolved one.

Two years later, Courtland S. Dines, a wealthy oil operator, of Denver, was shot in his apartment, during a party at which Mabel Normand was present. Mabel Normand's chauffeur, Horace Greer, admitted the shooting, but declined to reveal the motive, the police concluding it was jealousy, on account of Dines' attentions to Mabel Normand. Protests began to appear against the exhibition of pictures with Mabel Normand; and a year later, when she attempted to regain a place for herself on the stage, in an Al Wood production of "The Little Mouse", the show never reached Broadway, since after a few try-outs in smaller cities, Wood concluded Mabel did not have sufficient stage ability.

Hal Roach, in 1926, gave her a three year contract, hoping to reinstate her as "The happy girl", but Mabel never was well enough to face the camera, tuberculosis had already left its mark upon her. The Industry was surprised to learn, when she was dying, that she had eloped with Lew Cody and married him at Ventura, Calif., the marriage being performed by a Justice of the Peace. Cody could not go to her bedside, as he had been, for several weeks, under the care of a physician, seriously ill. At her bedside when she passed away was her secretary and a night nurse. She was a great little artist with the cards stacked against her.

Ambrose Small Disappearance

The Grand Opera House, which established a precedent for picture runs in Toronto, was the theatre identified with the disappearance of Ambrose Small. Walter Kennedy sang "Mickey" at each performance, and the theatre was packed despite Toronto's street car strike.

Arthur Cohen and Eli Marks changed the name of Stephenson's Exchange to The Exhibitors Distributing Corp., with offices over the Rialto Theatre, Yonge and Shuter Sts.

Charlie walked out of the Exhibitors Distributing Corp., literally walked out, with nothing, following an argument, believe it, or not.

The Digest Story

The story of the Canadian Moving Picture Digest should appear in this story. Clair Hague, who was general manager of Canadian Universal Pictures, the name having been changed from Laemmle Films, had an office on Richmond St. Clair Hague published a magazine called the Universal Bulletin. Bill Bach was editor. Bill asked for a requisition of filing cabinets for photos and cuts, but by this time, Clair Hague decided that the operation of this Bulletin was becoming to expensive, for an assistant, by the name of Raymond Peck, had been engaged. Clair Hague endeavoured to persuade Ray Lewis, who was a journalist, to acquire this publication and make a real trade paper. When Ray Lewis figured out the costs, she could not see any money in it, it looked like a good deal of work, for glory. How right she was, even in those days, which takes us back to about 1913-14. However, she persuaded the Dominion Printing Co. to purchase the Universal Bulletin, with Moody of Montreal. Clair Hague said, "Take it as a gift, but with one proviso, take the assistant editor, Raymond Peck, with the paper". A deal was made, Dominion, in a few months, acquired the paper from Moody, the latter who left Toronto, and Raymond Peck became the editor. Ray Lewis looked after the advertising, and the feature stories. Later on, when B. E. Norrish started his production of "SEEING CANADA" series, which Universal was to distribute, he desired the services of Raymond Peck, and Raymond left with the consent of Canada's first national film trade paper, The Canadian Moving Picture Digest. Green then became editor, and Ray Lewis continued to secure advertising contracts and to do feature articles. Here is where the first big battles started. Ray Lewis had seen some of the British pictures and was intent on bringing them into Canada. We were in World War I, in it from the start, in 1914, whereas the United States did not declare war on Germany until after the Lusitania was torpedoed, a tragedy in which many American lives were lost, among them names which were important in American film history.

Regal Releases Pathe

Ernest Ouimet, who operated the Regal Films, releasing Pathe product, was one of the Digest's most ardent

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SINCERE
WISHES
FOR
MANY MORE
ANNIVERSARIES
RAY
AND
JAY
•
RALPH DALE
SAM FINGOLD
DICK MAIN

The Record Of Our Years

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supporters. He gave the Digest a contract for four pages centre, for a period of four years.

George Weeks, Canadian General Manager of Paramount, was the inspiration for a weekly edition of the Digest, promising a contract on a yearly basis, of two pages a week, if the Digest would publish each week, instead of bi-monthly.

In 1920, Ray Lewis combined her job of advertising manager with that of editor. Green left for California, and Ray Lewis, having taken over the entire ownership of The Digest, carried on. In those days, Morgan Powell contributed a weekly page to The Digest, of Montreal news. Bill Gladish contributed Ottawa news, Alice Fairweather covered the Maritimes, and J. J. Conklin the Winnipeg News. Alice Fairweather, and Conklin are still contributors. Bill Gladish, now in Toronto, contributes the occasional feature. Morgan Powell ceased his contributions, when his position, as managing editor of the Montreal Star, involved all of his services. Jacobs, a brilliant writer, did the Montreal news, until he passed away.

Thirty Digest Years

During the thirty years, of The Digest, it became the official organ of the Canadian Motion Picture Exhibitors' Association of Canada, official organ for War Services in World War I, official organ for Canadian Picture Pioneers, its editor and publisher being one of the Founders, with Clair Hague and Oscar R. Hanson. It became the official organ of the Canadian Motion Picture War Services Committee and was generally in every fight, including the one opposed to a forced retirement of the Allen Bros. and a sale of the circuit to the N. L. Nathanson interests, when the idea of Famous Players Canadian Corp. was first conceived. It was Ray Lewis, however, who brought to N. L. Nathanson the news of Lord Beaverbrook's interest in a Canadian theatre circuit, when the Allens turned down Lord Beaverbrook's offer, to acquire a controlling interest in their company, with an underwriting of £1,000,000. Ray Lewis proposed this deal to "N.L." and was to receive 2½% if this financing went through. Did you see the money? This is the answer to the question, of whether Ray Lewis saw it. The financing of Famous Players Canadian Corp. went through, a few years later, but, the woman behind the scene, received some advertising for the Digest, and a promise, that she would be placed on the Board of Directors of Famous Players Canadian Corporation. There is an interesting story attached to this meagre outline, but as Bernard Shaw and Noel Coward once said, to Ray Lewis, when she attempted to ask them questions in the nature of an interview, "Why should we tell you a story for which we can be paid, by publishing the story?" The complete story will be published in "Memories", copies of the book for purchase, will be offered to you.

The Digest has, during its thirty years, published in addition to its weekly publications, special editions; and may we here pause to state, that among those companies which supported the Digest continuously with advertising, was Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer pictures, Nicholas Schenck making an arrangement to occupy the front and inside cover of the Digest for a period of not less than ten years, with Howard Dietz directing the advertising copy.

NICHOLAS SCHENCK

Lewis Selznick Pictures

Phil Kaufman, brother of Harry Kaufman had an office over the Grand Opera House, Toronto, and distributed the Lewis-Selznick pictures which trademark was later absorbed by Regal Films. Phil Kaufman later went to Germany for Warner's, and Henry Nathanson became general manager of Regal.

Oscar R. Hanson, representing Earl Hammons, opened exchanges in Canada, for Educational, and brought the Educational convention to Canada in 1928. Educational called itself, "The Spice of the Programme". Under its trademark, it released Mermaid comedies, Christie comedies, Bobby Vernon comedies, Cameo comedies, Lloyd Hamilton comedies, Lupino Lane comedies, etc.

The "Chaser" Label

You might be interested to know, that when short subjects were first made, they were called "chasers", exhibitors used them to empty their theatres. This attitude was prevalent when the Industry had already developed the distinction of five, or five and a half reel features. When the first three reel picture was produced, exhibitors were afraid of it. They did not believe an audience would sit for 45 minutes and look at a picture; and exhibitors ran one reel a night, and the next reel the following night, and the third reel the third night. When the short subject finally caught on, every producing company produced its own short subjects, to make a complete program. The public was beginning to ask for a good deal for its money and show people were beginning to wonder whether Movies would last.

The Itinerants

Looking back into the mirror of our past, in relationship to what we call, Itinerants, the business really started after this fashion. The showman travelled with a machine and his films, showing in a town as long as business was good. The "Store Show" came into operation, when an empty store, in a town, became available for one of the travelling showmen. John C. Green of Ottawa, was the first of the so-called Itinerants, in Canada.

The Allens could tell you stories of renting chairs from an undertaker's parlour, to take care of movie customers, that is, in between the "dead bodies", on which occasion the undertaker was obliged to have his chairs back for the mourners, and the show had to be exhibited with the audience standing.

The public today has developed "tender behinds". You cannot make it too "cushy" for their comfort.

Clair Hague, Pioneer

Clair Hague was another of the early Itinerants, in Canada. E. R. Benjamin, another, who booked fairs, and in seeking dates added, "please state if you can furnish electricity in the

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OSCAR HANSON

The Record Of Our Years

(*Continued from Page* 45)

daytime". He had, as films, "The Great Train Robbery", "Japanese-Russian War Scenes", "Electric Panorama of World's Fair, St. Louis", "Damnation of Faust", and "Trip to tht Moon".

Clair Hague travelled with a film, which he advertised, as "Hague's Passion and Life of Christ", with descriptive lecture. "One thousand feet of handsomely coloured moving picture film, augmented by sacred music, elaborate mechanical effects. Matinee price, 10c, nights, 15c and 25c." Meyer Cohen was the lessee and manager of the Berlin Opera House, (Kitchener, Ont.), at which the Hague film was shown for two nights, Thursday, November 21st, 1907, and the following Saturday, matinee and night. It was advertised as "The Paramount Pinnacle of Pictorial Perfection".

At the Wm. Tell Hall, November 29th and 30th, 1907, under the auspices of the New Hambourg Musical Society, there was advertised, "Hague's Refined, Realistic Reproduction of the Life and Passion of Christ." Some catch-lines, on the advertising, read, "Sensationally Supreme in Sumptuous Semblance". Madame Mildred Hague sang The Palms and The Holy City.

Pictures in Roller Rink

In Galt, there was a three-day engagement, at the Roller Rink. The advertisement informed the public, that the Rink would be comfortably heated for those who did not wish to skate, and preferred to go into the gallery to witness The Life of Christ. Enter American Edison Co. upon the screen, with Clair Hague presenting "The Marathon Race, The Idlers, 7,000 ft. of the finest and best pictures. Pictures fireproof and flickerless". On the opening night, at the Opera House, Leamington, admission was 10c and 15c. with one lady admitted free with each paid ticket.

In 1908, at the Brisco Opera House, the "Celebrated Dreyfus Case" and 5,000 ft. of other film, admission five cents matinee, and ten cents evenings. "The Quebec Tercentenary" was another picture shown, "Jim Jeffries on His California Ranch", "The James Bros", etc.

In 1915, Clair Hague travelled on the Laemmle De Luxe special, to Hollywood, for the opening of Universal City.

The Allen Brothers

In 1906, Jules and J. J. Allen came from Bradford, Pa., to Brantford, Ont. The nickel show was proving popular and Barney Allen, who had a jewelry store, in Bradford, Pa., decided that the nickel show was better business. Jules Allen, who had left school at the age of seventeen, went to Hamilton, Ont., to see if a store was available for a movie show. Not finding an empty store, he decided to go to Brantford, Ont., believing that there was luck in the similarity of the name of the town in Pennsylvania, with that in Ontario. Brantford had no movies and Jules Allen found an empty store on Colbourne St., the town's main street. He rented this store and called it The Theatorium. At one end of the store, a white sheet was tacked upon the wall, on a board frame, at the other end of the room was the machine. Admission was five cents. The place was crowded for each show, and shortly after, the Allens built the Wonderland, at a cost of a few thousand dollars. The chairs which were on order for the opening, did not arrive, but the undertaker helped out and supplied the chairs. Harry Kane came from Detroit, to sing illustrated songs. This Wonderland proved successful and a third theatre was opened, by Bill Karry of Bowling Alley fame, who came to Brantford, from London, Ont. Ernie Moule sang the illustrated songs and Mrs. Moule played the piano.

Ben Cronk, Showman

Ben Cronk, who was born in Brantford, joined the Allens at the Theatorium, operating the machine and later on at the Wonderland. In 1909, Ben Cronk's father purchased the two Brantford theatres from the Allens. The Theatorium was wrecked by a gas explosion and when Ben Cronk, Sr., passed away, Ben sold the Wonderland and rejoined the Allens at the General Theatre. In 1910, Ben Cronk left for Calgary to operate the Monarch, later on the Rex and the Allen theatres in Calgary; and became supervisor for all the Allen Western circuit of theatres. In 1917, Ben Cronk returned to Toronto, in connection with the building of the Allens' ace theatre, the Tivoli, now operated by Famous Players.

BEN CRONK

Syd. Taube, Pioneer

Syd Taube, another of Canada's Picture Pioneers, started in 1899, with Howard Dunn, at the Bijou Theatre, Queen Street West. Taube was still attending school, but Dunn had the candy and song-book concession at the Bijou, previously held by Charlie Stephenson and Bill Stewart.

Syd. Taube joined the Allens' Canadian Film Exchanges in 1910 at Calgary; in 1911 he became manager of the Allen Exchange at Vancouver. The Allens sold out to Universal Film Co. In 1915, Regal Films began to operate in Toronto, and Syd. Taube became the manager of the Toronto exchange, leaving Toronto for Vancouver to open a Regal office there, and installing Bill Hansher as manager, with Daniel Freeman as salesman.

The Allens were distributing Famous Players Artcraft, with offices at 12 Queen St. E., and Taube went with the Allens, remaining with them until 1919, when he became a partner in the firm of Canadian Aero Film Co.

Canadian Educational

When Oscar Hanson came to Toronto to take over the distribution of Educational Pictures, Syd. was Oscar Hanson's first employee, remaining with Educational for a period of six years. Syd. then returned to Universal, and when World Wide Pictures, with which company J. D. (Jaydee) Williams was identified, opened exchanges in Canada, Syd. Taube was appointed Canadian representative. Following the fade-out of this company in 1933, with the influx of Sound pictures, World-Wide product being silent British films, Syd. Taube received the position as Canadian representative of an automatic candy machine company, with which he remained until he became Executive Secretary of the Motion Picture Theatres Association of Ontario.

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SYD. TAUBE

The Record Of Our Years

(*Continued from Page* 46)

Memories of Montreal

The story of the growth of the Motion Picture Industry in Montreal, brings back memories of Arthur Hirsch and Alex. Adilman, who operate Consolidated Theatres; of George Ganetakos, who built up the United Amusement Co.; of Bill Lester, who operated two theatres in Quebec City, recently sold, but who has plans for new theatre building. Of John Ganetakos, grown up in this business, and who now operates Confederation Amusements. Of Sparrow, who sold his theatre in Montreal to Famous Players; of Jules Laine, who with Ben Garson, organized and built a circuit of theatres in Montreal, which was sold in 1945, to Odeon Theatres of Canada; of Joe Lightstone, who operated the Orpheum Theatre for at least two decades, and whose son, Owen, took over at his father's death. The Orpheum was the Montreal home of United Artists runs. At one time in the history of the Orpheum, Joe Lightstone played not more than six pictures during the year, bringing them back again and again for extended runs.

French Pictures

Of George Panos, Sr., who operated the System on St. Catharine St., and which is now operated by his son. Of the St. Denis, which was operated by an independent exhibitor, until it was acquired by France Films, and became a first-run theatre for French pictures. Of the establishment of a French Film Market in Quebec, with the importation of French-made pictures from France. Of Regal Films' venture into French pictures, with Maurice West journeying to Paris and acquiring about fifty French pictures, which were later sold to France Films.

Exhibitor Co-operatives

Returning to Ontario motion picture development, we note the growth of the B & F Circuit in Toronto. The formation of exhibitor co-operatives in Canada. Bud Lennon's group was the first in Ontario. Nat Taylor's group and the Oscar Hanson group amalgamated. Taylor and Raoul Auerbach left the Hanson co-operative group, and with them went several of the exhibitors who had started with Taylor; Hyman Freedman, Joe Polakoff, the Firestones, etc. Henry Falk, builder, was associated with Taylor in the construction of theatres, building the Elgin, at Ottawa, and other houses.

Digest Libel Suit

Mrs. Falk was editor of the Canadian Independent, published by the exhibitors' co-operative group headed by Taylor. Mrs. Falk brought a libel action against Ray Lewis and the Canadian Moving Picture Digest, in which paper Ray Lewis denied statements published in the Canadian Independent, which described The Digest editor as a stooge of N. L. Nathanson. Mrs. Falk lost her action, and her editorial job, and the Canadian Independent obtained the services of Hye Bossin, and became the Canadian Film Weekly, published by N. A. Taylor and his associates.

Other events in the moving picture story have been omitted in this article, since they are incorporated in another feature article in this issue.

Let's Call It A Day!

Thirty years is three decades, three thousand, six hundred months; measured in days, the figures become astronomical. Each day and night something happened in this Film Industry of ours, which would require a voluminous magazine to record. Therefore, let's call it a day, wherein you start in, where we have left off. Make your own little excursions on the leads which we have given you. A good deal has happened during the growth of a Canadian Film Industry. For instance, such world-famous screen stars as Mary Pickford, Marie Dressler and Norma Shearer were born in Canada, but not in the past thirty years. Neither was the editor and publisher of the Canadian Moving Picture Digest, who writes this story from her memories, and from her notes of the passing years, as recorded in The Digest.

To all our well wishers, our appreciation and thanks.

LEO M. DEVANEY

Congratulations
RAY
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ON YOUR
30th ANNIVERSARY
MAY YOU HAVE
MANY MORE HAPPY YEARS
* * *
ASSOCIATED
THEATRES LTD.

Highlights Of Film History

(*Continued from Page* 43)

Len Bishop, formerly manager of the Regent, Ottawa, appointed manager of the Tivoli, Hamilton . . . Eastman Co. demonstrates Koda Color; Technicolor still holds lead in colored film . . . Universal announces completion of "The Man Who Laughs", "supreme achievement in synchronization" . . . M-G-M opens "White Shadows in the South Seas" in sound at the Astor, N.Y. . . . Ray Lewis visits British studios . . . O. R. Harvey, Northern Electric manager, announces first sound installation in Canada for Palace, Montreal . . . Arnold Tubman moved from Calgary to Toronto as assistant to Haskell Masters, Canadian General Manager, U.A. . . . G-B to release through Canadian Universal; Arthur Lee, vice-president, G-B of Canada . . . Warner Bros. publish warning ad., pointing out "Vitaphone" a registered trade mark, owned 100% by Warner Bros. . . . Al Jolson signs long-term contract with Warner's . . . Jesse L. Lasky states "in five years there will be no silent pictures" . . . 400 theatres in U.S. now wired for sound . . . Oscar Hanson, General Manager, Canadian Educational, addresses National Council of Women, on British pictures . . . Paramount's "The Patriot", starring Emil Jannings, magnificent production . . . Cecil B. DeMille to produce for M-G-M . . . Warner Bros. acquire control of Stanley Theatres; reported headed for merger with K-A-O . . . R. S. Roddick succeeds late Tom Logan as manager, Capitol, London . . . first sound program in Canada presented at Palace, Montreal, manager, George Rotsky; feature, "Street Angel", Fox . . . Avalon, Ottawa, new P. J. Nolan house, opens . . . DeForest Phonofilm sues Famous Players, claiming sound installation at Palace, Montreal, infringement on DeForest patent rights . . . MPTOA to hold annual convention in Toronto . . . "Four Sons" second "talkie" in Palace, Montreal . . . Tivoli, Toronto opens first sound picture, "Street Angel" . . .

MARIE DRESSLER

E. F. ALBEE

Digest publishes special MPTOA Convention Number . . . Tom Daley all smiles as "talkies" line them out all day at the Tivoli, Toronto . . . Pete Woodhull re-elected President, MPTOA; J. C. Brady, head Canadian branch, elected Vice-President parent body . . . World Wide Pictures formed, to release top British product through Educational . . . Joan Crawford established as new top-ranking star in M-G-M's "Dancing Daughters" . . . R.C.A.-K.A.O. merger results in formation of Radio-Keith-Orpheum Corp., David Sarnoff, Chairman of the Board . . . "Variety" pans MPTOA convention at Toronto; Digest pans "Variety" . . . B. F. Keith Memorial Theatre opens in Boston . . . Digest warns against succession of "crime" pictures . . . show biz, like Wall St. enjoying boom days . . . Phil Hazza moves from Montreal to Toronto, heading Eastern division, Educational . . . Quebec Supreme Court okays Sunday movies . . . report City to buy Shea's Hippodrome, Toronto, property for extension of City Hall, F-P agrees to give up lease . . . Joseph Schnitzer elected president, F-B-O, to release through RKO . . . Oscar Hanson resigns from Canadian Educational . . . after seeing Warner's "On Trial", Digest editor changes her views on the future of "talkies" . . . Toronto Film Trade gives testimonial dinner for Oscar Hanson . . . "Dawn" passed in Quebec and Ontario . . . S. W. Smith of British Lion arrives in Canada for conferences.

1929-30

N.B.—When the writer started in to present the highlights of motion picture history as recorded in The Digest, from 1926 to 1945, I admit I had no idea of the amount of work involved. It necessitated reading through every page of every issue of The Digest from 1926 on. However, tough as it was, the lamentable gap between 1928 and 1931, with the years 1929 and 1930 omitted from this record, is not due to any loss of interest, over-fatigue, or other physical disability. The plain facts are that in the Film Exchange fire of December, 1944, The Digest files for 1929 and 1930 were destroyed.

The years 1929 and 1930 were momentous days for the Motion Picture Industry, and our failure to be able to cover them in this history is nothing short of calamitous. It was in 1929, that Sound really came into its own, with virtually every theatre changing over to "talkies". The death-knell of the silent picture was sounded. Many famous names of silent days, disappeared from the screen, as their voices were found to be unsuitable for talking pictures. The stock-market crash of October, 1929, wiped out film fortunes as well as private nest-eggs, and reorganization was the order-of-the-day. Top pictures of 1929 were "Broadway Melody" (M-G-M); "Bulldog Drummond" (U.A.); "Cock-Eyed World" (Fox); "Disraeli" (Warner's); "Gold Diggers of Broadway" (Warner's); "Hallelujah" (M-G-M); "In Old Arizona" (Fox); "Last of Mrs. Cheyney" (M-G-M); "Madame X" (M-G-M); and "Rio Rita" (Radio).

In 1930, the world settled down to a real depression, but of all industries, the movies were the least hit. It was in 1930 that N. L. Nathanson resigned from Famous Players, and Paramount Publix took over active control. Top pictures for 1930 were "Abraham Lincoln" (U.A.); "All Quiet on the Western Front" (Univ.); "Anna Christie" (M-G-M); "Hell's Angels" (U.A.); "Holiday" (Pathe); "Journey's End" (Tiffany); "Old English" (Warner's); "The Big House" (M-G-M); "The Divorcee" (M-G-M); and "With Byrd at the South Pole" (Paramount).

And so, on to 1931.

1931

COLONEL COOPER attacks British Quota Act . . . Perkins Electric opens new Toronto store . . . Ontario Censor Board passes "Hell's Angels" after hold-up of two months . . . Gau-

(*Continued on Page* 50)

WALLACE BEERY

COLUMBIA

on Its 25th Anniversary Sends

CONGRATULATIONS

to the

CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

on its 30th Birthday

Highlights Of Film History

(*Continued from Page* 48)

mont-British rumoured angling for Canadian circuit of theatres . . . report company formed to produce films at Windsor, Ont.; American and Gaumont-British interests involved . . . Ont. censor fees cut to $6 for foreign pictures (including U.S.), and $3 for British films, per reel . . . Sask. exhibitors form Association . . . British Privy Council rules Combines Investigation of Canada Act valid; Canadian Government proceeding with Famous Players-Paramount deal investigation . . . Film Industry honors Carl Laemmle on Silver Anniversary in moving pictures . . . Louis Wolheim dies . . . Lawrence (Lol) Solman passes . . . Manitoba Legislature attacks Motion Pictures, urging stricter censorship . . . Ont. British Film Quota Bill passes third reading in House . . . Chase National Bank heads group refinancing Fox Films; Harley Clarke new president . . . Digest urges reduction of "gangster" films . . . new Copyright Bill introduced in Canadian Parliament . . . David Belasco passes . . . William Fox retires from Board of Fox Films . . . Dewey Bloom appointed Sales and Exploitation Manager for British division of Regal Films . . . Clara Bow retires from the screen . . . Fox Films signs 10-year franchise with Famous Players . . . White Investigation Commission rules Famous Players Canadian a Combine against the Public Interest . . . British Films make strong bid for Canadian market with Victory Group of 24 top British productions; Oscar Hanson appointed Managing Director, Gaumont-British of Canada . . . N. L. Nathanson states British theatre chain to be formed in Canada . . . Oscar Hanson forms Community Theatres; Fred Guest, President; Tom Moorehead. Vice-President; Oscar Hanson, General Manager; other directors include Thomas Ross, Gordon Miller, and Harold W. Braden; "Tubby" Long, office manager and booker . . . "Bud" Lennon passes . . . Allens apply for discharge from bankruptcy . . . Mexico raises import duty on American films 1,000%; Digest warns other nations will follow suit . . . John J. Griffin, veteran Ontario theatre owner, passes . . . Digest Editor commissioned by Prime Minister R. B. Bennett, and Federation of British Industries to make film survey of Canada, with view to opening British chain of theatres across Dominion . . . Digest backs M-G-M's announced 25-30-35 per cent sales policy, pointing out superiority of Metro product over that of other companies . . . Community Theatres and Exhibitors' Co-Operative amalgamate forming Independent Theatre Owners' Association of Ontario . . . Carl Laemmle announces Universal to produce in France . . . Digest urges 25% of playing time on Canadian screens be given to British product, providing sufficient British films of quality are available, and price is equitable . . . Sask., Alta., B.C. and Ont. join up on Film Combine prosecution . . . Ray Lewis secures British International Pictures franchise for Canada, 26 pictures promised . . . WCTU urges Government control of motion pictures and vaudeville . . . Thomas A. Edison passes . . . Joseph Schenck advocates real show business through shows run by individuals, not by "electric buttons" . . . London Daily Mail writes, "By her own efforts, Miss Ray Lewis has effected one of the most remarkable achievements in the history of British films within the Empire" . . . Digest urges Anglo-American film pact . . . B. F. Lyon, Frank Myers and J. Berman "out" of Warner's Canadian; Frank Myers joins British International of Canada . . . . much talk re RKO-Pathe merger . . . Capitol, Calgary, re-introduces orchestra and vaudeville . . . product shortage faces Industry . . . new Calgary Film Exchange Bldg. opens . . . Marie Dressler and Lionel Barrymore win Academy Awards . . . Television makes its bow at Broadway Theatre, New York . . . Film Industry gives U.S. over one million dollars for unemployment relief work through National Motion Picture Week . . . Associated Press reports "Wall Street bit off more than it could chew in Film Industry" . . . premiums proving big box-office draw across Canada . . . RKO threatened with receivership . . . U.S. proposes 10% amusement tax on all admissions . . . Warners deny receivership suit looming.

1932

WALL Street Journal advocates for Film Industry "proper financial control which at the same time would give a free hand to the 'show people' who know amusement values" . . . Ray Lewis and British International Films of Canada Ltd. sue British International Pictures Ltd., and B.I. Export Ltd. for breach of contract . . Sunday night charity shows proposed in Winnipeg to raise $10,000 for unemployment relief; Churches kill plan . . . Digest urges co-operation with Censor Boards, so that movies may become inspiration for praise instead of attacks . . . RKO's "Cimarron" heads Film Daily's poll of Ten Best films . . . Sidney Kent resigns as president of Paramount . . . Combine proceedings start

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GRETA GARBO

in Toronto . . . Quebec increases theatre taxation . . . Edgar Wallace, famed mystery writer, passes . . . Ont. Government proposes upward revision of amusement tax . . . British Censor Board warns trade against "sex" pictures . . . third attempt in one year made on life of Wally Woolridge, former president of Local 348; B.C. Projectionists Society . . . Joseph Schnitzer leaves RKO Radio to form own unit; Ned Depinet moves up . . . Carl Laemmle installs L. J. Schlaifer as Canadian General Manager, Universal, succeeding Phil Reisman Iowa Senator introduces bill to investigate Film Industry . . . Mr. Justice Garrow rules fifteen Canadian film organizations not guilty of forming a Combine . . 3,200 French theatres closed by strike against high taxes . . . George Eastman dies . . . Sidney Kent becomes President of Fox Films . . . Sir John Aird predicts Radio advertising to disappear . . . M-G-M advertises "TO HELL WITH DEPRESSION' GOOD pictures sock depression" . . . rumours state N. L. Nathanson to head Famous Players . . . B.I.P. making 13 Quota pictures for M-G-M . . . Jean Harlow receives civic reception in Toronto . . . Leo Devaney becomes Canadian General Manager for RKO . . . Oscar Hanson opens Ideal Films Limited in Toronto, with branches across Canada . . . all newsreels to contain 25% Canadian news, according to Government edict . . . Fox Theatres into receivership . . . "Sunshine Susie", a British film, breaks all records, running 6 weeks at Uptown, Toronto . . . The Red Mill, Toronto's first nickel show house, closes down after 27 years . . . Imperial Economic Conference held in Ottawa . . . F-P employees work two weeks without pay; Paramount-Publix net loss for first quarter, 2½ million dollars . . . exhibitors protest against proposed British Film Quota for Canada . . .

(*Continued on Page* 52)

Congratulations

RAY LEWIS

on the

Thirtieth Anniversary

of the

Canadian Moving Picture Digest

from

REPUBLIC PICTURES

Producers of

"Dakota," "Madonna's Secret"
and "Murder in the Music Hall"

Highlights Of Film History

(*Continued from Page* 50)

London rumour links "N. L."-Gaumont - British - Lord Beaverbrook - Sir Herbert Holt in Famous Players Canadian deal . . . Digest publishes Imperial Economic Conference Number . . . M-G-M heads list with six of first ten in Motion Picture Herald's Poll of box-office stars . . . Jimmy Walker resigns as Mayor of New York . . . Famous Players take over operation of all Montreal first-run houses, in pooling arrangement with Loew's and RKO . . . Movies to tie-up with Radio for exploitation purposes . . . Paramount-Publix net loss for second quarter close to six millions . . . M-G-M's "Grand Hotel" breaking all records at Loew's Toronto . . . Canadian Film Industry holds first Motion Picture Ball in Toronto . . . Oscar Hanson forms Empire Films Limited with branches from coast to coast; B. F. Lyon general manager . . . Regal Films secures Alexander Korda's London Films franchise . . . Sam Katz resigns from Paramount . . . Franklin D. Roosevelt elected President of the United States . . . "Grand Hotel" Academy Award Winner . . . M-G-M approve new standard contract; Columbia and United Artists reject it; five companies still to be heard from . . . Jimmy Grainger, vice-president in charge of distribution, quits Fox Films . . . Joe Brandt quits World-Wide . . . Oscar Hanson badly beaten; two assailants sent to jail . . . Warners win proxy fight, retaining control of their company . . . world's largest theatre, Radio City Music Hall opens in New York . . . theatres throughout country hold special shows for children, with canned and other foods for relief as admission fees.

1933

MANNY BROWN appointed General Sales Manager, Empire Films, Toronto . . . M-G-M has five pictures in Ten Best of Film Daily Poll. . . . Ned Depinet, RKO Vice-President, predicts Industry over the worst of the depression . . . Paramount-Publix files voluntary bankruptcy petition. . . . Lewis J. Selznick passes . . . Radio-Keith Orpheum Corp. in receivership. . . . M-G-M and Columbia only two film companies paying dividends . . . Tivoli, Toronto, announces all-British policy; "Flag Lieutenant" first feature. . . . Fox - World Wide - Educational merge . . . theatres continue cutting admission prices; two features and giveaways spread among subsequents. . . . "Cavalcade" opens Royal Alexandra, Toronto, $2.00 top . . . attempt made to assassinate Franklin D. Roosevelt. . . . Dr. Frank Astor, field director for the American Child Welfare Association, after survey of 1,000 children, denies movies contribute to juvenile delinquency; blames heredity and environment. . . . Montreal permits movies for children in church and school halls, but continues ban on theatre admission for children under 16. . . . U.S. banks closed by Roosevelt . . seven major producing companies vote 8-week 50% salary cut. . . . Canadian Operators' Union formed in opposition to IATSE; Digest deplore excessive "flag-waving". . . . Shea's, Toronto closed owing to labor troubles; independent theatres picketed . . . Paramount "off the board" at New York Stock Exchange . . . joint Western Censor Board formed by prairie provinces. . . . Digest urges boycott of Hitlerite German films. . . .M-G-M rescinds salary cuts . . . Henry O'Connor passes. . . . Syd Taube resigns from Educational-World Wide to go into business for himself. . . . Nicholas Schenck acclaimed as "Man of the Hour" by labor union leaders. . . . Phil Kaufman beaten by Nazis, escapes to Paris. . . . Warner's hitting comeback trail with great strides; "42nd Street" smash box-office. . . . Digest warns Jews in Film Industry to leave Germany . . . Federal Government proposes 12½% film rental tax. . . . Proposed Film Investigation Bill defeated in U.S. House of Representatives. . . . David Selznick becomes production chief at M-G-M studios . . . "stink bombs" tossed in several independent Toronto theatres; labor agitators blamed . . . proposed 12½% rentals tax abandoned by Canadian government; Henry Nathanson and Col. Cooper given credit for changing government's mind . . . rumours strong that N. L. Nathanson to get control of Famous Players. . . . Canadian Performing Right Society takes action against number of exhibitors charging infringement of copyrights. . . . N. L. Nathanson appointed president of Famous Players; control remains with Paramount. . . . Goebbels announces new Aryan-German film organization. . . . I.O.D.E. at annual convention state general run of movies a "menace to children of Canada" . . . rumour U.S. Government to control Film Industry. . . . U.S. distributors start "pulling out" of Germany. . . . Disney's "Three Little Pigs" talk of the Industry. . . . Ray Lewis to run for Provincial Parliament as Independent candidate. . . . Digest publishes "Welcome Back, 'N.L.'" Issue. . . . Pickford-Fairbanks divorce suit hits headlines . . . show business on the upswing; many closed theatres reopening; grosses start to soar. . . . N.I.R.A. put in force in U.S. by President Roosevelt; film industry backs plan 100%. . . . Jimmy Grainger becomes General Sales Manager of Universal for U.S. and Canada. . . . Holiywood studios hit by strike. . . . N. L. Nathanson secures control of Poli Circuit. . . . Warner Bros. hold national convention in Toronto, first to be held in Canada. . . . RKO closes Canadian theatre office; RKO theatres under lease to F-P. . . . Katharine Hepburn makes screen history in RKO's "Morning Glory". . . . "Dinner At Eight", star-studded M-G-M production, sweeps the country. . . . Warner Bros. stock in spectacular rise as "Golddiggers" and other Warner pictures score at box-office. . . . William J. Conway dies. . . . Famous Players resume payment of Bond Interest. . . . Joseph Schenck and Darryl Zanuck launch 20th Century Pictures; release through United Artists. . . . Ray Lewis and B.I.P. finally settle long litigation amicably. . . . Charles Laughton scores big hit in "Private Life of Henry VIII". . . . Shea's, Toronto, re-opens with policy of film and vaudeville; vaudeville also returns at Loew's, Montreal. . . . Gaumont-British merge subsidiary distributing companies. . . . B.I.P. and A.B.C. merge theatre, production and distribution units. . . . Paramount denies N. L. Nathanson seeking to purchase control Famous Players. . . . Marie Dressler given Testimonial Dinner. . . . Irving Thalberg returns to M-G-M after European va-

(*Continued on Page* 54)

MANNY BROWN

SAM MORRIS

Congratulations

To Canadian Moving Picture Digest on the occasion of its 30th Anniversary . . . for its service to the motion picture industry from "flicker" days to adult stature . . . as a force in the nation, as a good citizen.

B. E. Norrish, M.Sc., M.E.I.C.
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Highlights Of Film History

(*Continued from Page* 52)

cation and rest cure, accompanied by his wife, Norma Shearer. . . . "Henry VIII" breaks record at Radio City Music Hall. . . . Toronto Film Industry holds second annual Movie Ball. . . . Mae West in "I'm No Angel" a record-breaker. . . . Manitoba Telephone Co. cancels Performing Right Society contract . . . Texas Guinan passes . . . Monogram hitting the big-time with several box-office successes. . . . E. H. Sothern passes. . . . M-G-M net profit for five years of Depression, over 50 million dollars. . . . President Roosevelt signs NRA Film Code. . . .Phil Kaufman passes. . . . George Lester, King Theatre, Toronto, beaten up by hired thugs. . . . RKO's "Little Women" establishes Hepburn as "Katharine the Great."

1934

CHARLES EINFELD signs million dollar publicity tie-up for Warner Bros.-First National with Coca Cola Co. . . . . A. W. "Alf" Perry succeeds Manny Brown as General Sales Manager, Empire Films, Ltd. . . . "Cavalcade", "42nd Street", "Henry VIII" top Film Daily's Ten Best Poll. . . . N. L. Nathanson in bid for Roxy Theatre, New York. . . . Madeleine Carroll visits Toronto . . . film stocks rise. . . . Oscar Hanson forms Hanson Theatres Ltd., announced as all-British chain; Carlton, Toronto, key house . . . stricter movie censorship urged. . . . Digest supports proposed Film Appeal Board for Ontaario . . . provincial probe of midnight shows in Ontario ordered, following charges movies contributing to juvenile delinquency. . . . Ray Lewis raises $500 for underprivileged children through benefit show, Shea's, Toronto. . . . Ont. Censor Board Chief, Major Boylan states "Censor Board cannot take the place of parents or guardians . . . parents supervise their children's food and clothing; they ought to supervise what films they shall see" . . . RKO net profit for first quarter, $403,616, against $1,297,947 loss same period 1933. . . . Loew's, Inc. net profit first six months, close to 4 million dollars. . . . Paramount trustees sue 18 directors of company for over 12 million dollars, re repurchase of shares. . . . Mary Pickford visits Toronto: given civic reception. . . . M-G-M celebrates 10th Anniversary. . . . Michael Shea passes. . . . Forest Hill Village refuses application by Famous Players to build theatre on Spadina Road at Lonsdale. . . . Walker Theatre, Winnipeg license revoked for permitting presentation of Communist play, "Eight Men Speak". . . . "House of Rothschild" breaks 20-year record, Loew's, Toronto. . . . Paramount reorganization underway; creditors' claims total $282,000,000 . . . MPPDA shows 1,182 exhibs against double-bills, 217 in favor . . . Ray Lewis defeated in bid for seat in Provincial Legislature . . report RKO to produce British Quota pictures at Vancouver . . . newly elected Premier Hepburn of Ontario announces support of National Censor Board . . Cardinal Dougherty of Philadelphia urges Catholic boycott of theatres; charges "greatest menace to faith and morale in the U.S. today"; Digest urges Industry mobolize for Film Defence. . . . Ned E. Depinet new President, RKO Radio Pictures. . . . Hitler's Nazi Blood Purge shocks world . . . attacks on film industry grow; Digest urges injunction against Church boycott, charging restraint of trade. . . . Marie Dressler passes, mourned by millions. . . . J. D. Williams passes . . report Winston Churchill to make series of 12 one-reel shorts on current events for London Films. . . . "Nell Gwynn", smash hit in England, banned in U.S. . . . Ginger Rogers-Fred Astaire team boosting RKO grosses throughout the world. . . . Jack Hulbert, British comedy star, visits Toronto. . . . DeMille's "Cleopatra" big box-office . . . newsreel shots of assassination of King Alexander of Jugoslavia and Foreign Minister Barthou of France, sensational scoop. . . . "Barretts of Wimpole Street", M-G-M record-breaker. . . . Famous Players re-open dark houses across Canada. . . . Winston Churchill warns England, "Germany's target is the Thames". . . . League of Decency continues attacks on movies . . . annual Movie Ball, Toronto, best yet. . . . Premier Hepburn defends movies.

1935

LEO leads the Parade again, with four out of the Film Daily Poll of the Ten Best. . . . Brooklyn Tablet, a Catholic Journal, states, "A revolution has taken place in the film business. . . . the clean-up has been consistent, immediate and almost complete; the producers have kept the agreement and abided by the rules of the game"; but Cardinal Dougherty states ban on movies to remain . . . agitation started in Toronto against giveaways. . . . Hamilton United Theatres, subsidiary of Famous Players, restores two-year salary cuts. . . . Universal's "Imitation of Life" wins high praise. . . . M-G-M's "David Copperfield" a solid smash. . . . Paramount's "Bengal Lancer" and Darryl Zanuck's "Clive of India" prove best British pictures made in Hollywood . . . Dionne Quintuplets appear in single reel for RKO Pathe. . . . British films scoring big success in U.S.; "Jew Suss", "Iron Duke" and "Scarlet Pimpernel" all box-office champions. . . . Canadian Performing Right Society doubles its fees. . . . Rew Lewis visits Hollywood studios. . . . The "March of Time", new 2-reel news subject, makes instant hit. . . . Columbia's "It Happened One Night" walks away with all top Academy Award honors . . . Abe Appleby, Roxy Theatre, Toronto, murdered; police completely baffled. . . . "Devil Dogs of the Air" latest in Warner's successful cycle of service films. . . . Governor Merriam, of California, proposes 25% income tax on Motion Pictures: producers threaten to move to Florida . . . Ray Lewis at Hollywood studios, calls Shirley Temple, "cutest thing in Hollywood". . . . Station WABC reports survey shows 70,804,137 radio listeners in U.S.; Digest warns Film Industry to get control of Television. . . . Carl Laemmle denies Universal to be sold; Universal City celebrates 20th Anniversary. . . . Ontario Censor Board bans Nazi film "Germany Awakes". . . . Fred Pelton, M-G-M studio manager, acting on behalf of the MPPDA, okays Florida for movie studios; Louis B. Mayer says studios will be forced to move from California if proposed taxation goes through. . . . Alfred Hitchcock acclaimed for direction of thriller, "Man Who Knew Too Much", British film starring Peter Lorre. . . . California abandons proposed Film Taxation. . . . Walter Huston given civic reception in Toronto. . . . Warner's "G-Men" starring Jimmy Cagney, starts cycle of anti-crime movies. . . . Royal Commission Investigation reveals six-fold increase in revenue for Canadian Performing Right Society since 1930. . . Famous Players declare 50c dividend on common stock. . . . Zanuck's "Cardinal Richelieu" and "Les Miserables" among the season's biggest hits . . . agitation in Ontario against amusement tax; Digest leads protest against "nuisance tax". . . . Digest publishes Silver Jubilee issue honoring King George V and Queen Mary. . . . Will Rogers, in international broadcast honoring Royal Jubilee, urges King and Queen to visit America, "and maybe we can make some arrangements to go back with

J. D. "JAYDEE" WILLIAMS

(*Continued on Page* 56)

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General Manager

Highlights Of Film History

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them; we've had a little more liberty than we can handle" . . . 20th Century Pictures and Fox Films merge; Sidney Kent and Joseph Schenck head new 20th Century-Fox; Darryl F. Zanuck production chief, succeeding Winfield Sheehan. . . . John E. Otterson new President, Paramount; Adolph Zukor, Chairman of the Board. . . Supreme Court of the U.S. rules NRA null and void. . . . C. M. Woolfe, former joint-managing director of Gaumont-British forms General Film Distributors. . . . Roxy, New York, re-opens . . . Norma Shearer (Thalberg) mother of 8-lb. daughter. . . . Lee Ochs, veteran exhibitor, passes in New York. . . . Al Lichtman elected President of United Artists. . . . N. L. Nathanson buys interest in British Lion Film Corp. . . . Republic and British executives attend Empire Films convention in Toronto. . . . John Buchan, Lord Tweedsmuir, author of movie hit, "39 Steps", appointed Governor-General of Canada . . Warner's roadshowing "Midsummer Nights Dream". . . . RKO's "Becky Sharpe" first Technicolor feature-length film. . . . Warner's pay record price for best-seller, "Anthony Adverse". . . . M-G-M introduces new star, Luise Rainer, in "Escapade", with William Powell co-starred. . . . Britain talks of abandoning Film Quota Act. . . . Toby Wing stars in "The King's Plate", Quota film being made in Toronto. . . . Will Rogers killed in airplane crash; world mourns passing of great American . . . children under 16 exempt from Ontario amusement tax, when admission rate is under 25c. . . . Ray Lewis visits England . . . Lionel Barrymore celebrates 25 years in motion pictures . . . Haskell Masters, Canadian General Manager, appointed U.A. Foreign Representative. . . . Universal's "Diamond Jim" big money-maker. . . . Sam Briskin resigns as Columbia production head. . . . M-G-M still turning out the big ones; "Anna Karenina"; "China Skies", "Broadway Melody of 1936" box-office champs . . . Leonidoff brings Radio City Rockettes to Maple Leaf Gardens, Toronto, for two nights. . . . Al Lichtman resigns as President, United Artists; Mary Pickford elected President. . . . David O. Selznick forms own producing company; "Little Lord Fauntleroy" to be first production . . . stage shows back at Imperial, Toronto. . . . Al Lichtman joins M-G-M . . . David M. Loew joins Hal Roach as executive vice-president. . . . Metro's "Mutiny on the Bounty" terrific . . . all film stocks booming; RKO heads the rise. . . . RKO's "Top Hat" breaks Radio City Music Hall record. . . . 20th Century-Fox producing feature film on Dionne Quintuplets; picture to be shot at Callander, Ont, home of Quints. . . . Shea's, Toronto, discontinues vaudeville, goes into double-feature policy . . . . rule Performing Right Society fees too high. . . . Loew's Inc. net profit, over $7,500,000. . . . Warner's well out of the "red", with $675,000 net profit. . . . Sam Briskin elected vice-president in charge of production at RKO Radio Pictures; Leo Spitz, president; M. H. Aylesworth, Chairman of the Board.

1936

CARL LAEMMLE celebrates 30th anniversary in film biz. . . . Sidney Kent and Mark Ostrer sign Fox-G-B agreement for interchange of stars, writers, directors, etc. . . . report W. R. Hearst to launch Television in conjunction with Warner Bros. . . . S. L. Rothafel, "Roxy", dies suddenly. . . . John Gilbert passes. . . . King George V dies; succeeded by Edward VIII. . . . Warner net profit, first quarter, over $1,000,000. . . . Sydney S. Cohen passes . . . vaudeville back in Shea's, Toronto . . . British interests offer $11,000,000 for Universal Studios. . . . Edna Mae Durbin, 14-year-old Winnipeg girl singer, signs M-G-M contract; rechristened "Deanna" . . . fire destroys Elstree Studios, England; loss over $2,000,000. . . . Ray Lewis returns to Toronto after seven months in England. . . . Charlie Chaplin's "Modern Times" smashes b.o. records. . . . Walter Wanger joins ranks of U.A. producers; David Selznick releasing through U.A., also Goldwyn and Korda. . . . Winfield Sheehan joins Paramount as unit producer. . . . Fox's "Country Doctor", starring Dionne Quints and Jean Hersholt, previewed at Uptown, Toronto, in aid of Star Fresh Air Fund. . . . "Rose Marie" establishes MacDonald-Eddy team for Metro. . . . Korda's production of H. G. Wells' "Things to Come" pictures 20-year World War destroying Civilization. . . . Victor McLaglen, Bette Davis and "Mutiny on the Bounty" win top "Oscars". . . . Walt Disney to release through RKO Radio. . . . Dolores Costello makes screen comeback in "Little Lord Fauntleroy" . . . Hal Horne becomes publicity director for Walter Wanger Productions. . . . Carl Laemmle sells Universal control for $5,500,000; syndicate headed by J. Cheever Cowdin and Charles Rogers of Standard Capitol, and C. M. Woolfe, General Film Distributors, London, England, purchase Laemmle's 80%; Robert H. Cochrane appointed Universal president. . . . Digest publishes King George V Memorial Number. . . . Goldwyn's "These Three" talk of the Industry . . . Eglinton Theatre, Toronto, opens; considered most beautiful suburban house on the continent . . . fire sweeps Korda Studio at Denham; loss $300,000. . . . M-G-M's "Great Ziegfield" opens road-show engagements. . . . Fox seeking control Gaumont-British . . . Felix Feist passes . . . "Gloomy Sunday", alleged suicide-provoking Hungarian tune, makes hit in America; "Music Goes 'Round" driving everybody to the brink of suicide. . . . Canadian newspapers, radio, newsreels, feature story of three prominent Toronto men trapped in Moose River, N.S. mine; after ten agonizing days two of the men are rescued by draegermen, third man dies; Warner's announce they will make movie of the story. . . . Freddie Bartholomew central figure in custody suit . . . "Jay L", Digest reviewer, and son of the Editor, returns to Toronto after two years in Arizona and California. . . . N. L. Nathanson signs new 5-year contract with Famous Players. . . . Wm. F. Rodgers appointed General Sales Manager for M-G-M. . . . "Sailor Beware", stage show at Victoria, Toronto, banned by police after fourth day. . . . Columbia's "Mr. Deeds Goes To Town" hits the jackpot. . . . Warner's "Anthony Adverse" outstanding production . . . report Carl Laemmle to produce three pictures for United Artists release. . . . Bobby Breen, Toronto boy, latest child star. . . . Paul L. Nathanson, vice-president Empire Films, to join British Lion. . . . Western Theatres Ltd. and Kershaw Theatres Ltd., Winnipeg, merge with Famous Players. . . . G-B to distribute through Empire Films. . . . Universal's "Show Boat" wins loud applause. . . . Hal Horne joins RKO as associate producer. . . . "Green Pastures" banned in Ontario. . . . M-G-M's "San Francisco" tops "Mutiny" grosses. . . . Louis-Schmeling Fight Pictures big b.o. . . . "Green Pastures" ban lifted. . . . Barney Balaban new President, Paramount. . . . Edward VIII narrowly misses assassination . . . heat wave hits Toronto; theatres keep doors open all night, as people sleep in air-conditioned comfort. . . . Thomas Meighan passes. . . . Dr. A. H. Gianni, new President, United Artists . . . start

CARL LAEMMLE

(*Continued on Page* 58)

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Highlights Of Film History

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production of G-B's "Great Barrier", Revelstoke, B.C. . . . Papal Encyclical laments "portrayal of sin and vice" in films. . . . Sam Goldwyn gets Gary Cooper; Adolph Zukor sues Goldwyn for $5,000,000 damages. . . . George J. Schaefer, 1st Vice-President, U.A. . . . B. C. Lewis, Dominion Sound Equipments Sales Manager, dies of injuries from car accident. . . . Wolfe Cohen appointed Canadian General Manager, Warner Bros. . . . Hal Roach producing feature-length comedies. . . . M-G-M-Fox-G-B deal reported. . . . ASCAP seeks dissolution Canadian Performing Right Society. . . . "Romeo and Juliet" M-G-M smash hit. . . . A. W. Smith, Jr., resigns from Warner's; Grad Sears new General Sales Manager . . . M. Gebertig passes in Toronto . . . . twenty-seven British film trade representatives visit Toronto on way back from Hollywood. . . . "Jay L" visits Callander, covering shooting second Fox picture with Quints. . . . "San Francisco" runs 8 weeks, Loew's, Toronto, all-time record. . . . Rudy Vallee hits front pages Toronto papers, by socking C.N.E. patron, alleged to have thrown bottle at Rudy. . . . Boris Karloff visits Toronto. . . . F-P to build more theatres in Canada. . . . Louis B. Mayer visits home town, Saint John, N.B. . . . Irving Thalberg passes. . . . RKO's "Swing Time" tops "Top Hat". . . . M-G-M-Fox-G-B deal reported off. . . . Fox seeking control, Roxy Theatre, N.Y. . . . Universal's "My Man Godfrey" breaking all records. . . . Australia going into film production in a big way. . . . Warner's to make 20 films in England. . . . Deanna Durbin signs with Universal, who predict big future for her; Walter Pidgeon, another Canadian, being starred by Universal. . . . Village Theatre, opens, Forest Hill Village. . . . Roosevelt re-elected in landslide vote. . . . Warner's "Charge of the Light Brigade" another British hit "made in Hollywood". . . . Harry Allen appointed Canadian head, Grand National. . . . Hal Horne joins Walter Wanger as production executive. . . . Edward VIII abdicates; succeeded by George VI. . . . Adolph Zukor celebrates Silver Jubilee in motion pictures. . . . Paramount declares dividend, Famous raises its dividend; show business booming as year ends.

1937

CANADIAN Performing Right Society fee now regulated by Government . . . Luise Rainer, Walter Huston, and "Mutiny" top Academy Awards. . . . Deanna Durbin acclaimed as "star find of the year" in Universal's "Three Smart Girls" . . . David Selznick to make "GWTW" for M-G-M. . . . Shirley Temple top money-making star, Clark Gable No. 2. . . . Fox's "Lloyd's of London" establishes Tyrone Power as new top-rank star. . . . Martin Johnston, noted explorer and film producer, killed in plane crash. . . . J. Arthur Rank resigns from British National Films chairmanship. . . . Richard Boleslawski, dies suddenly in Hollywood. . . . U.S. hit by flood; $750,000,000 voted for Flood Relief; all theatres closed in flood areas. . . . M. H. Aylesworth resigns from RKO. . . . David Loew producing for RKO. . . . Mussolini invades Ethiopia. . . . Sonja Henie, world champion figure skater, big hit in first picture for Fox, "One in a Million". . . . J. Arthur Rank forms new production company with Jack Buchanan. . . . 1936 Radio Advertising totals $1,180,000 . . . Canadian cities clamp down on Bingo; "Bank Night" outlawed in Dominion. . . . Sir Guy Standing passes. . . . Garbo-Taylor combination in M-G-M's "Camille" good for S.R.O. biz. . . . Paul Muni, Luise Rainer, "Great Ziegfeld", Academy Award winners. . . . Ontario abandons amusement tax. . . Loew's Inc. buys half of Fox holdings in G-B. . . . Fox's British Technicolor film, "Wings of the Morning", breaks records across Canada. . . . Ned Depinet acquires world distribution rights for RKO, to Wilcox's "Victoria the Great", starring Anna Neagle. . . . Barney Balaban replaces Adolph Zukor on Board of F-P. . . . Loew's net profit $8,600,000 for six months. . . . Warner's "Prince and Pauper" timed for Coronation release. . . . Simon Meretsky buys Devonshire Race Track, Windsor. . . . Ray Lewis to England for Coronation. . . . German zeppelin "Hindenburg" crashes in flames at Lakehurst, N.J.; 41 killed; newsreel shots sensational. . . . new Film Centre opened in Winnipeg, housing film exchanges. . . . Digest Coronation Issue published. . . . M-G-M's "Captains Courageous" and Selznick's "Star is Born" top box-office hits . . . Loew's six month net profit hits over $4,000,000. . . . Goldwyn-Korda after Pickford-Fairbanks-Chaplin U.A. interests; $6,000,000 offered. . . . Paramount Toronto office staff split $80,000 Irish Sweepstakes prize. . . . Jean Harlow passes . . . report three Warner Bros. buy 40,000 shares Paramount. . . . J. Arthur Rank joins C. M. Woolfe in General Film Distributors. . . . Ray Lewis presented to King George VI at Buckingham Garden Party . . . RKO President Leo Spitz reports company's business up 150%. . . . George Gershwin dies. . . . 37 new pictures budgeted at over $1,000,000 in Hollywood. . . . Walter Vincent elected President, Republic Pictures. . . . Metro decide to release Jean Harlow's last picture, "Saratoga", co-starring Clark Gable. . . . Louis B. Mayer visits England to personally supervise start of production at M-G-M British studios. . . . RKO six months' net profit, $1,500,000. . . . Fox takes over Roxy Theatre, N.Y. . . . Warner's roadshowing "Emile Zola" and "Robin Hood". . . . new British Film Quota Act turns down government control of British film industry. . . . Korda's "Dark Journey" establishes new star, Vivien Leigh; Digest reviewer predicts great future. . . . "Jim" O'Loghlin, Canadian General Manager, Fox, heads company's Sales Drive. . . . John Maxwell's $3,000,000 suit against G-B settled. . . . N. L. Nathanson buys block of shares in Canadian Universal. . . . Sino-Jap War starts; U.S. newsreel cameramen on the job. . . . F-P shows half million net profit first six months. . . . Ontario suffers infantile paralysis epidemic. . . . Robert Taylor and Maureen O'Sullivan to England for first M-G-M new British film, "A Yank at Oxford". . . Capra's "Lost Horizon" now being nationally released at popular prices by Columbia after one year as roadshow. . . . Ray Lewis back from England. . . . Empire Films and Canadian Universal amalgamate into Empire-Universal Films Limited, Oscar Hanson, President; Paul Nathanson, Vice-President; A W. Perry, General Manager; Clair Hague, Universal's Canadian representative . . . combination radio-victrola-television sets selling in London for $350. . . . Ray Lewis a grandmother. . . . I. H. Allen appointed Sales Manager, Empire-Universal. . . F-P Vancouver houses closed by projectionists strike . . . exhibitors protest film stars' radio chores. . . . Louis B. Mayer signs Greer Garson to Metro contract; predicts great future for English girl. . . . Irving Asher signs Swedish star "Aino Bergo" to contract (Ed. note. Could this be Ingrid Bergman?). . . . stock market crashes again; show biz badly hurt. . . . Garbo's "Conquest" costliest film since "Ben Hur". . . . Vittorio Mussolini given "cold shoulder" in Hollywood. . . . M-G-M to use sepia-

ADOLPH ZUKOR

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Highlights Of Film History

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tint on several productions. . . . Goldwyn-Korda in huddle with UA. directors re purchase deal. . . . Haskell Masters back as Canadian General Manager, U.A. . . . Operators' Union threatens general strike against F-P, to involve 200 houses. . . Canadian Government cuts duty on French films 50%. . . . Columbia's "Awful Truth" mirth-packed money-maker. . . . S. J. Briskin resigns as RKO production chief . . . "Emile Zola" banned in Quebec. . . . rumours insist Selznick to sign with M-G-M; both parties silent. . . . Fox net over $8,000,000; Warner net $6,000,000. . . . Columbia's "Awful Truth" breaks all records, running 5 weeks, Imperial, Toronto. . . . Nate Blumberg resigns from RKO Theatres, to take over presidency, Universal Pictures, succeeding R. H. Cochrane, resigned. . . . "Jay L" appointed associate editor, The Digest. . . Hanson's Associated Theatres announce program of expansion . . . Anna Neagle and Tullio Carminati co-starred in Wilcox's "Look Out For Love"; story by Ray Lewis. . . . Dannielle Darrieux, famous French star, signed by Universal. . . . Goldwyn-Korda-U.A. deal all off. . . . Walt Disney's first feature cartoon, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" ready for release by RKO. . . . Joseph P. Kennedy, former U.S. movie executive, appointed U.S. Ambassador to England.

1938

RUMOUR in Toronto predicts merger of independent theatres . . . "Charlie McCarthy" chosen radio champion of 1937; Jack Benny, last year's winner, runner-up. . . . Norman Alley's Universal newsreel shots of "Panay Incident" bring $90,000 for still photograph rights alone . . . O. R. Harvey, managing director, Dominion Sound, passes. . . . Gaiety Theatre, Halifax, destroyed by fire . . . first Ned E. Depinet RKO Sales Drive opens. . . . Associated Theatres booking and buying for 53 Ontario theatres. . . . Gracie Fields decorated by King George VI. . . . Warner's buy "Muzak". . . . F-P employees given one-week's salary as Xmas bonus. . . . Fox's "In Old Chicago" playing to SRO everywhere. . . . Norma Shearer returning to screen in M-G-M's "Marie Antoinette". . . . Digest starts own radio program . . . report Hanson's Associated Theatres, and Nat Taylor's Exhibitors Booking Association to merge. . . . Grad Sears scores exhibitors for giveaways and lotteries. . . . Digest editorial, "Fable of the Gnats" has Industry in stitches. . . . public protests increase in Canadian radio license fees . . . Goldwyn's "Hurricane" doing land-office biz. . . . Leo Spitz denies rumour he will resign as RKO prexy. . . . United Artists sells away from Famous Players Canadian. . . . Soviet film, "Peter the First" widely acclaimed in Dominion. . . . Mrs. Barney Allen passes . . . report Quebec children will be permitted to see "Snow White". . . . Luise Rainer repeats win of Academy Award; Spencer Tracy and "Zola" winners . . . Digest survey finds double-bills popular with patrons. . . . Canada wins Sidney Kent Fox Sales Drive . . . Nazis grab Austria. . . . Premier Hepburn threatens investigation of theatres who failed to reduce prices with abolition of amusement tax. . . . Digest editor bereaved by death of her husband, Joshua Smith, R.B.A. . . . F-P net profit for 1937, $869,197. . . . Nazi Government confiscates film revenue of American distributors in Austria. . . . Neely-Pettingill Block-Booking Bill argues in Congress; Canadian indies queried by Digest, reply, "Neely, Schmeely, give me the pictures" . . . Warner's suspend Bette Davis and Dick Powell for refusing roles. . . . George Weeks new Monogram sales manager. . . . M-G-M's British production, "A Yank at Oxford" packs 'em in; "Test Pilot", Gable-Loy-Tracy, another winner. . . . U.A. Sales Drive won by Haskell Masters' Canadian District, selling away from F-P. . . . conciliation discussions continue; Digest warns against Government control . . . re-issues making money; Metro re-release three big ones . . . Quebec exhibitors protest excessive theatre taxation. . . . U.S. grosses way down; many theatres using commercial films to help boost revenue . . . Wolfe Cohen's Canadian District wins Warner's Sales Drive. . . . triple feature bills started in Chicago. . . . Grand National abandon production, remain distribution company . . . U.S. Senate passes Neely Bill, but little likelihood seen that House of Representatives will act on measure . . . Vancouver branch wins RKO Sales Drive. . . . Charles Rogers out as Universal production chief; Cliff Work succeeds. . . . Jean Hersholt and Fox company head for Callander to make third Quint film . . . Jimmy Grainger elected president and general manager, Republic Pictures. . . . Wm. F. Rodgers, M-G-M General Sales Manager, introduces conciliation plan for producer-distributor-exhibitor co-operation. . . . Church backs Bingo, attacks theatres again. . . . John D. Clark, Fox General Sales Manager, dies suddenly. . . . all companies re-issuing major hits of past few years. . . . Darryl Zanuck on holiday jaunt to England; will compete in polo championship games. . . . Premier Hepburn refuses municipalities right to levy amusement tax . . .Universal and Republic executives to Toronto for Empire-Universal convention. . . . M-G-M and Fox fighting Schlesinger monopoly in South Africa; will distribute themselves, and build theatres. . . . NLRB orders union jurisdiction election be held in 18 Hollywood studios. . . . Dr. A. H. Giannini resigns from U.A.; succeeded by Murray Silverstone. . . . Digest warns against encroachment of 16mm. films. . . . Paramount cuts operating and production costs another $3,000,000. . . . IATSE chief, George Brown, states "no film will be shown in U.S. or Canada that does not bear IATSE emblem". . . . Herman Wobber new Fox General Sales Manager. . . . Alfred Hitchcock, England's ace director, arrives in U.S. . . . Ray Lewis back to England. . . . U.S. circuits close several large downtown houses. . . . N. L. Nathanson reported owning Sterling Films, 16mm. distribution company. . . . Kiwanis Club takes over Toronto's Casa Loma, charging sightseers admission of 25c, money to aid underprivileged children. . . . motion picture executives, accompanied by Will Hays, confer with President Roosevelt . . . 100 theatres close down for summer in New York area alone. . . . Ontario Censor Board chief states propaganda biggest problem. . . . U.S. Department of Justice indicts film industry, charging "monopoly". . . . Metro's "Hardy Family" series skyrockets Mickey Rooney to stardom. . . . G-B to produce pictures for M-G-M. . . . Oscar Deutsch, British Odeon Circuit head, announces he will build chain of theatres in Canada, as part of Empire-wide circuit. . . . Digest urges Industry "Cease and Desist" monopolistic tactics . . . Film Industry launches "Motion Pictures Greatest Year" Campaign, with prizes totalling $250,000 . . . Mary Pickford interviewed by Digest in Toronto, blames Industry slump on general business recession. . . . RKO to make film based on Corrigan "wrong way" flight across the Atlantic. . . . Paul Nathanson states 50% of English convinced there will be War within 18 months. . . . Republic and G-B refused entry in "Greatest Year" Campaign . . . exhibitors attempt to silence movie radio gossips . . . double horror re-issue

R. L. "ROXY" ROTHAFEL

(*Continued on Page* 62)

Best Wishes
for a
Very Happy Birthday

▼

J. MILES
WESTERN THEATRES LIMITED

To My Old Friend
RAY LEWIS

She Deserves the Best
and I Wish Her the Best

▼

SIMON MERETSKY

What Can I Say About
My Friend, Ray Lewis?

* * * *

Everybody **Knows!**
"SHE HAS DONE A
MARVELLOUS JOB!"

* * * *

Here's wishing her
Health, Happiness and Prosperity
for Another Thirty Years.

* * * *

CHARLES F. MAVETY
MAVETY FILM DELIVERY SERVICE

F. G. SPENCER COMPANY
LIMITED

WITH GREAT PLEASURE
CONGRATULATE
"RAY LEWIS"
AND THE
"DIGEST"
On The "30th" Anniversary

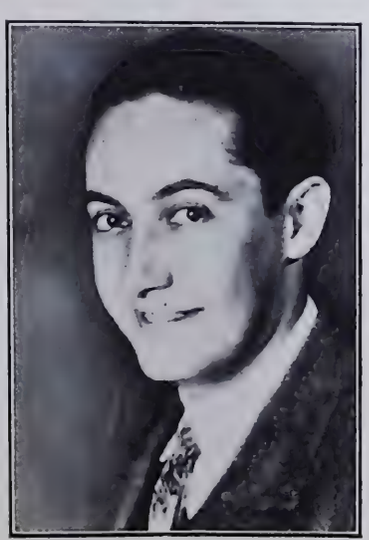
Highlights Of Film History

(*Continued from Page 60*)

bill, "Frankenstein" and "Dracula" b.o. bonanza . . . rumour merger between G-B Theatres, Odeon, and Sidney L. Bernstein's circuit. . . . "Alexander's Ragtime Band" big winner for Fox. . . Harry Weedon sails for Canada to make theatre survey for Oscar Deutsch. . . . Educational and Grand National merge. . . . A. W. Smith resigns as sales manager, U.A. . . . all film profits down . . . Loew's, Toronto, starts shows at 9.30 a.m. . . . Avenue Theatre, Toronto, opens on Eglinton Ave., Goldhar and Solway owners. . . . Ontario exhibitors meet with equipment company representatives re adjustment of service charges. . . . Ray Lewis buys "Keep Your Seats Please", starring George Formby, for Canada. . . . Harry Firestone elected president, ITA of Ontario. . . . "Greatest Year" Campaign bogging down . . . Warner's open new London theatre. . . . Munich Peace Pact signed, promising "Peace in our time"; Digest states "We cannot cheer victory of Dictatorship over Democracy" . . . union plans organizing exchange bookers, shippers and poster clerks. . . . George J. Schaefer resigns as general sales manager, U.A. . . . Korda's U.A. release, "Drums" big b.o. success . . . M-G-M adopts slogan "The Friendly Company" . . . Orson Welles 'scares pants' off U.S. and Canadian radio public, with "Invasion from Mars" broadcast. . . . M-G-M's British-made "Citadel" smash hit. . . . A. F. Van Beuren passes. . . . Howard Dietz recommends permanent public relations bureau for Film Industry. . . Digest again warns exhibitors of 16mm. menace. . . . Canadian Moving Picture Digest sues "Movie Digest", Toronto, for infringement of trademark. . . . Capra has another winner for Columbia in "You Can't Take It With You". . . . "Sweethearts" M-G-M's first Technicolor feature. . . . "Snow White" world gross, $8,000,000.

1939

DIGEST involved in battle for Independents . . . M-G-M, Fox, Paramount and Warners close Italian offices, destroying all prints on hand. . . . George Formby tops British money-making stars. . . . Paris theatres close in protest against high taxes. . . . Oscar Deutsch confirms Odeon merger with G-B Theatres . . . "Snow White" tops Film Daily Best Ten. . . . Digest Editor warns Nathanson's diversified film interests will be used as a weapon against F-P, to secure control . . . vaudeville back in Shea's, Toronto . . . RKO's "Gunga Din", and Fox's "Jesse James" two big b.o. champs . . . Digest warns "Hitler Wants Canada" . . . Loew's profit, $10,000,000 . . . Canadian Government planning National Film Board . . . "Lady Vanishes" goes 7 weeks, Eglinton, Toronto, new record for suburban house . . . F-P Voting Trust Agreement expires . . . Bette Davis, Spencer Tracy and "You Can't Take It With You", "Oscar" winners . . . Digest-Nathanson battle continues . . . Digest urges speed-up of distribution in Canada . . . IATSE strike ties up New York film deliveries . . . Digest editor, as minority shareholder, attends F-P annual meeting, enquires why Hamilton United lease not renewed . . . Metro's British-made "Pygmalion" wins raves . . . Lubitsch-Lesser form producing unit to release through U.A.; David Loew also signs U.A. distribution deal; Selznick to make 4 for U.A. distribution . . . James Roosevelt appointed vice-president, Samuel Goldwyn Productions . . . Ray Lewis announces plans to build theatre in Toronto . . . N.S. Film Act passed; will defeat combine . . Ontario mayors to ask government to permit municipal amusement tax . . . Goldwyn's "Wuthering Heights" magnificent film; banned at first in Quebec, finally passes . . . 5% tax on film profits leaving country levied by Canadian government. . . . National Censor Board Bill held up in Canadian Senate . . . Warner's "Confessions of a Nazi Spy" outstanding contribution to Democracy's Cause . . . World's Fair opens in N.Y.; kills theatre biz . . . conciliation board set-up in N.S. . . . Ontario Board bans all foreign films, 16mm. and 35mm.; foreign propaganda censors' biggest headache, says board chairman . . . King and Queen visit Canada and U.S. . . . third M-G-M British production, "Goodbye, Mr Chips" breaks house records in first engagements . . . Canadian Moving Picture Digest granted injunction against "Movie Digest"; latter publication folds up . . . Royal Visit empties theatres . . . Quebec police seize pro-Nazi film, despite protests of German consul . . . Quebec City exhibitors close all of city's theatres in protest against new 10% additional tax . . . U.S. film execs meet with Government officials to discuss "peace" plans . . . screen, press and radio urge preparedness for war . . British Exhibitors protest new Government 10% tax on imported film; British Chancellor heeds protests, removes tax . . . Ginger Rogers big hit in RKO's "Bachelor Mother" . . . G. B. Garbarino passes . . . Picture Pioneers formed in U.S.; Jack Cohn of Columbia heads group . . . Quebec City theatres re-open after nearly six-week closing; Quebec Premier forces rescinding of municipal 10% tax . . . conciliation board successful in N.S.; Allied Exhibitors accept distributors' terms . . . F-P hold national convention in Niagara Falls . . . George J. Schaefer elected President RKO . . . Industry plans Golden Jubilee celebration for late Fall . . . Goldwyn suing for release from U.A. distributing deal . . . U.A. celebrates 20th Anniversary . . . Ray Lewis and Ted Sterling take over lease on Avenue Theatre, Toronto; J. L. Smith, Digest associate editor, takes over management . . . Film Industry golf tournament held in Toronto . . . "Foto Nite" introduced in Canada . . . Warner's announce news sales policy, with 20% and 10% cancellation clauses, no recording fees, and arbitration; other companies expected to follow suit . . . WAR DECLARED . . . labor strife rocks Hollywood again . . . Digest urges film industry unite to help War Effort . . . emergency lighting systems ordered installed in all Ontario theatres; theatre fronts darkened in Maritimes coastal towns . . . Col. John Cooper appointed sub-chairman Canadian Red Cross . . . Canada's first war budget announces Excess Profits Tax on sliding scale . . . new theatres open in Sudbury and Galt . . . Calgary branch wins RKO Sales Drive . . . M-G-M's "Wizard of Oz" cleaning up at the box-offices . . . no provincial amusement tax for Ontario . . . Chaplin starts work on "The Dictator" . . . film industry employees flock to recruiting stations in Canada . . . Carl Laemmle passes away in Hollywood . . . M-G-M's "The Women" sensational comedy . . . RKO's "Nurse Edith Cavell", starring Anna Neagle, timely hit . . . Saint John branch wins M-G-M Tom Connors Sales Drive . . . Ned Depinet signed to long term contract as distribution chief for RKO Radio . . . RKO's "Inside the Maginot Line" booked solid coast-to-coast . . . David Selznick introduces new star find, Ingrid Bergman in "Intermezzo" . . . Jules Levey resigns as RKO sales manager; Andy Smith succeeds to post . . . Empire Air Training Scheme to be based in Canada . . . key cities report box-office upturn; enlistments hit small towns . . . Walter Hayner, Regal sales manager, passes . . Digest and Ray Lewis sued by Stella Falk and "Canadian Independent" for libel . . . Pylon Theatre, Toronto, owned by Ray Lewis and T. M. Sterling, opens . . .



IRVING THALBERG

(*Continued on Page 64*)

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR 30th ANNIVERSARY

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PARAMOUNT BRANTFORD THEATRES

I take this opportunity to extend my congratulations to The Canadian Moving Picture Digest and its efficient personnel on its 30th Anniversary of faithful service to the entire Motion Picture Industry.

▼

J. ALLEN

TIVOLI THEATRE

THOROLD

Highlights Of Film History

(*Continued from Page 62*)

John Grierson appointed Canadian Film Commissioner . . . Bill Stewart, veteran Canadian showman, passes in London, Ont. . . . George Ganetakos, United Amusements, Montreal, bereaved by death of his wife . . . dinnerware giveaways featured above pictures in theatre ads . . . Korda's RAF film, "The Lion Has Wings" wins applause in Canada . . . M-G-M's timely "Thunder Afloat" headed for record grosses . . . Toronto police raid two theatres using "Foto Nite", charge lottery . . . Garbo's first comedy, "Ninotchka", held-over everywhere . . . Doug Fairbanks, Sr., dies . . . Oscar Hanson, Clair Hague and Ray Lewis start formation of Canadian Picture Pioneers Club . . . Calgary managers form Exhibitors' Association . . . new Colony Theatre opens on Eglinton Ave., Toronto; Morris Weiss owner.

1940

FIRST War Loan trailer distributed to exhibitors across Canada . . . H. J. Swetman, Community Club, Kappuskasing, appointed head of the Beaver Hut, London, by Hon. Vincent Massey . . . D. V. Rosen organizing Man. and Sask. exhibitors . . . Sask. projectionists protest license renewal fee — highest in Dominion . . . "GWTW" opens Loew's, Toronto, reserved seats only . . . Col. John Cooper appointed acting Film Commissioner during John Grierson's trip to Australia and New Zealand . . . Toronto Film Industry purchases over $100,000 in war bonds . . . Judge acquits defendants in "Foto Nite" test case; indictment quashed . . . Canadian Picture Pioneers hold first luncheon meeting, Toronto; Clair Hague, temporary Chairman, Ray Lewis, Secretary . . . Lord Tweedsmuir passes . . . Mike Wilkes, veteran U.A. Canadian publicity head, dies of heart attack en route to Montreal . . . Phil Sherman appointed Montreal branch manager, Warner's . . . Ont. Premier bans March of Time's "Canada at War" until after Federal elections . . . G. H. Lash appointed Director of Pubic Information, Ottawa . . . F-P net profit at $904,324, down $74,000 . . . B.C. Exhibitors elect Archie Calladine, President Indie association . . . F-P introduce giveaways in some theatres; B & F introduce "Book Night" . . . films reported great aid in training Canada's fighting forces . . . indictment quashed in second hearing, "Foto Nite" case . . . Canadian Picture Pioneers hold rally in Toronto, 115 members enrolled . . . . Digest publishes special Pioneers Issue . . . Ont. Censor Board reports not one U.S. film rejected in past year . . . F-P introduces "Thrift Tickets"; indies counter with "Movie Scrips" . . . Les Plottel to Saint John as RKO branch manager . . . Frank Myers resigns from RKO; Mark Plottel named Toronto branch manager; Hat Taylor, Montreal, and Joe McPherson goes to Calgary branch . . . show biz hit by news of renewed activity on European front . . . George Perkins, veteran equipment dealer, passes in Montreal . . . Stella Falk libel action against Ray Lewis, dismissed with costs . . . Canadian Picture Pioneers sponsor "Win The War" Campaign, featuring free shows in every Canadian theatre, July 14th, to promote sale of War Savings Stamps and Certificates; N. L. Nathanson heads Campaign Committee, Clair Hague, vice-president, Ray Lewis, secretary, and Louis B. Mayer heading Hollywood Committee . . . Empire-Universal hold annual convention, Toronto . . . Esquire Films formed as distributors of Associated Talking Pictures and Ealing Studios product; Archie Laurie, President and General Manager . . . "Win The War" Campaign free show date changed to July 15, owing to Lord's Day Alliance pressure . . . B.C. branch formed of Canadian Picture Pioneers; Bill Jones chairman, Jack Muir, secretary . . . . production of "49th Parallel" starts in Canada . . . Vivien Leigh, Ned Sparks, Laurence Olivier make personal appearance at many Toronto theatres on "Win The War" Night; Anna Neagle appears at Vancouver theatres; other stars at various Canadian points; campaign big success, with over $700,000 worth of War Savings Stamps and Certificates sold . . . Maritimes branch, CPP formed, with Archie Mason, district chairman, and R. S. Roddick and Reg. March, secretaries . . . Gracie Fields tours Canada to raise funds for Navy League . . . Walter Wanger meets Montreal exhibitors at round-table conference; attends premieres of "Foreign Correspondent" at Ottawa and Toronto . . . Columbia opens offices in Saint John . . . N.A.A.F. Films Committee supplying films for Canadian army camps and garrisons . . representative citizens speak at Canadian theatres to boost 2nd War Loan . . . Assoc. Screen News' Red Cross trailers shown at all Canadian theatres . . . Government survey shows Canadian movie receipts up half million at $34,010,115 . . . movie stars appear on special Red Cross Broadcast . . . Ralph Hanbury, RKO Managing Director for England, killed by Nazi bomb . . . Joe Lightstone, veteran Montreal exhibitor, passes . . . B. E. Norrish elected President, Assoc. Screen News; E. W. Beatty, Chairman of the Board . . Paramount hold world premiere, "North West Mounted Police" in Regina; stars present for premiere . . . Warner's release "London Can Take It", made by British Ministry of Information, Quentin Reynolds narrating . . . Can. M.P. War Services Committee, organized by CPP, sponsors Rodeo at Coliseum, Toronto, in aid of Lord Mayor's Fund for British War Relief, Gene Autry heads show; net receipts $25,000 . . . "Foto Nite" declared legal in Man. . . . Grierson reports British Government making 2 films weekly . . Mary Pickford appears in Toronto in aid of Citizens Committee. Troops in Training . . . CPP holds first annual meeting in Toronto; President Clair Hague reports 170 members . . . Halifax alderman asks for Sunday shows for fighting forces . . . new theatre group, Consolidated Theatres, formed in Toronto . . . theatres continue sale of war savings stamps . . . London Theatre Managers' Association raises over $600 for British War Relief . . . Clearance Committee establishes Ont.

(*Continued on Page 66*)

N. L. NATHANSON

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GEORGE GANETAKOS
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ON THE 30th ANNIVERSARY OF YOUR PUBLICATION

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Motion Picture Theatres Association of Ontario

ARCH H. JOLLEY
Executive Secretary

21 DUNDAS SQUARE - TORONTO, ONT.

Highlights Of Film History

(*Continued from Page 64*)

Board, decides no national board as yet . . . John Grierson resigns as Film Commissioner . . . Leo Devaney, Canadian General Manager for RKO, heads Ned Depinet Drive . . . Ont. Government introduces 12-month course for projectionists; many theatre managers taking course . . . Capitol Theatre, Halifax, opened for armed forces' Sunday shows . . . M-G-M holds "hemispheric" premiere, "Flight Command" at Loew's Toronto . . . Canadian M.P. Distributors Assoc. reorganized with only distributor membership; J. P. O'Loghlin, President . . . Haskell Masters appointed Western and Canadian divisional manager, U. A.; Sam Glazer succeeds as Canadian District Manager . . .

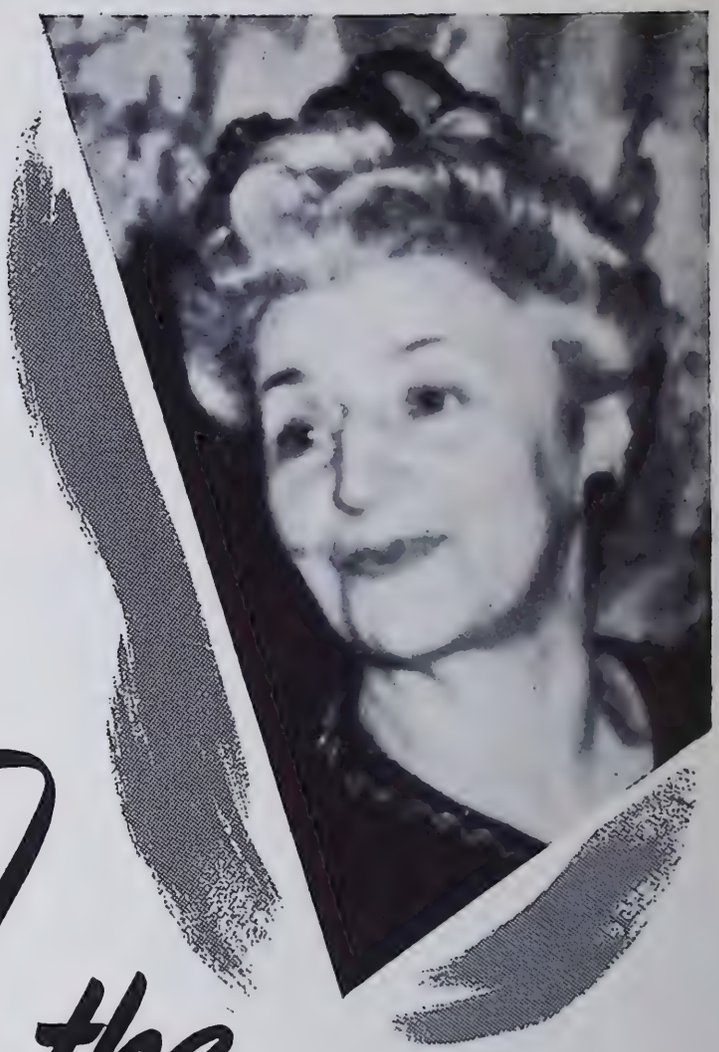
1941

GRIERSON back as Dominion Film Commissioner, states 1940 movies greatest year . . . A. J. Jeffrey, Toronto branch manager, U.A.; Charles Chaplin, Montreal, and George Heiber, Saint John manager . . . Digest Showmanship Contest announced . . . J. J. Fitzgibbons, F-P General Manager, predicts 1941 to be record year for motion pictures . . . Warner's distribute "Christmas Under Fire"; rentals contributed to British War Relief . . . Fox's "Hudson's Bay" has 7-city world premiere across Canada . . . M.P. War Services Committee pledges Industry co-operation for Government's War Savings Drive . . . near-tragedy at Doric Theatre, Toronto, caused by coal-gas; Government orders matrons present at all matinees . . . Richard Rowland visits Toronto for trade show of "My Dear Miss Bishop", U.A. release . . . Ray Lewis buys Colonial Films; name changed to Alliance Films . . . Columbia's "This Thing Called Love" runs 4 weeks, Imperial Toronto . . . new company, Odeon Theatres of Canada, enters Canadian field as Dominion-wide circuit; principals not revealed . . . Sterling Hayden, Paramount star, makes personal appearances, Toronto and Montreal . . . N.A.A.F, supplying 86 soldiers' camps with 16mm. films; distributors contribute over $50,000 worth of film gratis . . . A. A. Fielding resigns as General Manager F. G. Spencer Theatres . . . Empire-Universal holds convention in Toronto . . . Morris Milligan resigns as Paramount's Canadian General Manager; succeeded by Del Goodman . . . Columbia distribute short, "This Is England", proceeds to R.A.F. . . . Odeon opens Vogue, Vancouver; reveal Paul Nathanson and Oscar Hanson head Odeon . . . Federal Government introduces 20% Amusement Tax . . . Oscar Hanson resigns from Hanson Theatres . . . Winnipeg theatres collect 40,000 records for troops at special matinees . . . N. L. Nathanson refused control of Famous Players; resigns as president; succeeded by J. J. Fitzgibbons, with R. W. Bolstad, N. G. Barrow and Morris Stein as key assistants; T. J. Bragg goes with Nathanson . . . Federal Government virtually bans construction of new theatres, by limiting commercial building investments . . . Perkins Electric installs longest projection throw in Canada, Camp Borden, Ont. . . . Warner's "Sea Wolf" premiered at London Ont., birthplace of star, Alexander Knox . . . Ottawa refuses theatre building licenses . . . Bob Eves, Dan Krendel, Ray Tubman, promoted to district managers by Famous Players; Ed Harris, Clare Appel, Harry Dahn, and several others quit Famous to join Nathanson's Odeon circuit; Clare Appel publicity director for Esquire Films . . . film companies subscribe heavily for Victory Bonds; Norma Shearer to Montreal for Victory Loan rally . . . Regal Films reorganized as subsidiary of M-G-M . . . Universal introduces new comedy team, Abbot and Costello . . . Avenue and Pylon theatres, Toronto, join F-P circuit on partnership deal . . . blackout rehearsal held in Toronto, hits show biz hard . . . Nat Taylor makes deal with F-P for 20th Century circuit . . . first Canadian Paramount Convention held in Toronto . . . Warner's hold convention in Montreal . . . Harry Firestone appointed supervisor for Odeon Theatres in Toronto . . . Bob Hope visits Toronto for Red Cross broadcast . . . Dave Coplan, Canadian General Sales Manager, Columbia, takes $1-a-year job with National Film Board, re "Canada Carries On" and "World In Action" series . . . Warner's bring production crews to Canada to film "Captains of the Clouds", starring James Cagney . . . Archie Mason heads Maritimes Indie Booking Group . . . Walt Disney making training films for Canadian Government . . . Hemisphere Premiere, Warner's "The Prime Minister", Capitol, Ottawa, in aid Queen's Canadian Fund . . . Odeon gets Hamilton United Theatres . . . Famous Players' lease on Uptown, Toronto, expires; Loew's take over operation . . . polio epidemic again hits Canada; children barred from theatres . . . theatres run aluminum matinees for Red Cross . . . Fitzgibbons and Bolstad sign five-year contracts with Famous Players . . . Gabriel Pascal's "Major Barbara" premiere at Elgin, Ottawa, under patronage Governor General and Princess Alice, proceeds to charity . . . Canadian screens feature many patriotic newsclips . . . M-G-M product sold to Famous, dispelling rumours Odeon to secure Metro franchise . . . Reconsecration Week marked in theatres . . . second Toronto blackout fails to affect grosses . . . Senate subcommittee investigation of film industry in Washington, charging warmongering; Wendell Wilkie defends Industry . . . Toronto theatres run second aluminum matinee . . . Jules Wolfe leaves B & F to become head of F-P Maintenance; Billy Summerville, Jr. new B & F supervisor . . . Oscar Hanson resigns from Empire-Universal, Associated Theatres, Sterling Films and Sovereign Films; forms Pioneer Films . . . B.C. court rules "Foto-Nite" not a lottery . . . Duke and Duchess of Windsor visit Canada . . . "Tubby" Long appointed General Manager, Odeon Theatres . . . David Selznick joins U.A. as producer-partner . . . union leader Wm. Bioff charged with blackmail of Film producers, threatening strikes . . . Raymond Allen resigns as supervisor Premier Theatres

J. P. O'LOGHLIN

J. J. ALLEN

(*Continued on Page 68*)



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Highlights Of Film History

(*Continued from Page 66*)

and Theatre Holding Corp.; reported going into theatre biz for himself . . . B.C. projectionists demand 17% wage increase; arbitration board recommends 10% raise . . . Federal Government moves to control sales, wages, and theatre admission prices . . . Bill Burke, Brant, Brantford, wins First Digest Showmanship Contest; Ernie Petch, Strand, Brandon, Jack Nelson, Capitol, North Bay, 2nd and 3rd prize winners . . . "Fantasia" plays 3-weeks, Royal Alexandra, Toronto . . . J. J. Fitzgibbons addresses AMPA luncheon, N.Y. . . . Grad Sears joins U.A. as vice-president in charge of sales; Ben Kalmenson succeeds him as Warner's General Sales Manager . . . blackout ordered through Quebec; small town theatres suffer . . . CPP hold 2nd annual meeting, Toronto; Oscar Hanson, President; Ray Lewis, Secretary . . . Haskell Masters resigns from U.A.; becomes Odeon Theatres General Manager, and Empire - Universal Vice - President; Dave Griesdorf resigns from U.A., to become Odeon B.C. district manager . . . Lionel Lester quits Fox, Toronto, to join Raymond Allen . . . Grierson appointed National Film Commissioner for additional 3-year term . . . no ceiling on film rentals in Canada, but ceiling on admissions fixed . . . Pearl Harbor attacked; U.S. enters War; B.C. coastal towns blacked out . . . Dave Coplan appointed Canadian General Manager, United Artists; retains connection with National Film Board.

1942

GEORGE J. SCHAEFER appointed Chairman, U.S. War Activities Committee; Francis S. Harmon, Vice-Chairman and Industry's Government liaison officer . . . Sam Glazer resigns from U.A.; appointed Columbia Sales Manager . . . Hon. J. L. Ilsley thanks Industry for co-operation during 1941 . . "49th Parallel" opens across Canada; Columbia releasing . . Mickey Rooney top money-making star for 3rd consecutive year . . . Jules Levey independent producer, releasing through Univ. . . . film rentals frozen . . . Wolfe Cohen appointed Vice-President, Vitagraph, Ltd., in complete charge of all Warner operations in Canada . . . Hollywood goes all-out for War Effort . . . "GWTW" heads Film Daily Poll of Best Ten . . . Empire-Universal hold two-day sales meet, Toronto . . . F-P profit way up . . . Larry Graburn, popular Regina manager, joins RCAF . . . Carole Lombard killed in plane crash . . . Edward C. Raftery new U.A. president . . . W. G. Van Schmus, managing director, Radio City Music Hall, passes . . . N. W. Mason celebrates 60 years in show biz . . . Ind. M. P. Exhibitor group organized in Ontario . . . Warner's "Sergeant York" plays to top biz . . . gas rationing hits box-offices . . . Harvey Harnick appointed assistant to Louis Rosenfeld at Columbia, Toronto . . . U.A. to release Carole Lombard's last picture, "To Be or Not To Be" . . . Warner's "Captains of the Clouds" premiered in Canada . . . new Victory Loan opens; Hollywood stars visit Canada to aid Drive . . . . Digest moves to Film Bldg., Toronto . . . National Film Board rural circuits set-up in West . . . Doug. Cooper, Pioneer, passes in Toronto . . . R. G. McMullen, Administrator of theatres and films, WPTB . . . . Fox's "How Green Was My Valley" walks off with top Academy Awards . . . Chaplin's "Gold Rush" re-issued . . . John Hicks visits Toronto on behalf of Paramount's British-produced "Hatter's Castle" . . . 2nd Victory Loan oversubscribed by millions . . . Sidney R. Kent passes . . . RKO launches two new stars, Michele Morgan and Paul Henreid in "Joan of Paris" . . . film industry classified as "non essential" under Government National Selective Service program . . . Cagney to produce independently, release through U.A. . . . Que. exhibitors form new Indie group . . . F-P profit over $1,000,000 . . theatres switching to usherettes, and femme assistants . . . hint amusement tax may rise to 30% . . . new selling plan for movie industry; pictures to be sold in blocks, quarterly . . . theatres urged to conserve equipment; no replacements available . . . Anna Neagle featured in Canadian Red Cross reel . . . Warner's "King's Row" outstanding film . . . Sam Goldwyn to release through RKO . . . Hunt Stromberg to produce for U.A. release . . . industry to co-operate on Red Cross Campaign . . . Toronto blackout fails to dent box-office . . . Anna Neagle and Herbert Wilcox tour Canada for Air Cadet League . . . Hollywood Victory Caravan tours U.S. for Navy Relief . . . Hal Horne, advertising and publicity director, Fox . . . Digest becomes official organ, CPP and War Services Committee . . . . "Birth of a Baby" passed by censors . . . Dave Coplan elected vice-president, U.A. of Canada . . . "Army Week" celebrated in Canada; theatres co-operate . . John Barrymore passes . . . Warner's "Yankee Doodle Dandy" a record-breaker; premiere raises $5,000,000 in War Bond sales . . . Toronto film trade gives $31,000 to Red Cross . . . Jimmy Lynch, veteran F-P manager, passes . . . theatre shadowboxes banned in Toronto as unnecessary lighting . . . Harry Law appointed general manager, Associated Theatres . . . Alan Ladd leaps to stardom in Paramount's "This Gun For Hire" . . . Tubby Long new General Manager, Pioneer Films . . . Gordon Lightstone resigns from Regal Films; becomes Canadian General Manager, Paramount, succeeding Del Goodman . . . George J. Schaefer resigns as President, RKO, to concentrate on War Activities job . . . Alexander Korda knighted . . . "Reap The Wild Wind", DeMille winner . . . scrap matinees held coast-to-coast . . . Canadian income taxes and excessive profits tax raised . . . "Mrs. Miniver" establishes Garson-Pidgeon team for M-G-M . . . Ted Gould appointed Regal General Sales Manager; Garfield Cass, Toronto branch manager . . . Wendell L. Wilkie, appointed Chairman of the Board, Fox . . . Columbia to make $1.000,000 picture in B.C.; story dealing with Commandos . . . Universal to make "Corvette" picture in Canada . . N. Peter Rathvon new RKO president; Ned E. Depinet, RKO Radio prexy . . . Film Industry thanked by Army Hdqts. for valuable co-operation . . . Warner's to film Irving Berlin's "TITA", profits to go to Army Relief Fund . . . Luigi Romanelli passes . . . union leader James Petrillo cancels AF of M licenses; union bands no longer able to make records . . . raw stock shortage hits Industry . . . Gurston Allen appointed Director, Special Services, Ottawa . . . U.S. film industry takes lead in billion dollar war bond drive . . . Clark Gable joins army . . . Paramount to make Hemingway's "For Whom The Bell Tolls"; Bergman-Cooper co-starring . . . Crosby's "White Christmas" nation's No. 1 tune . . . all companies cut releases, . . . concentrate on top pix . . . Pioneer to distribute Alliance Films releases . . . Fox Canadian convention in Toronto . . . John Muir, veteran showman, passes in Vancouver . . . further raw stock cuts . . . Van Heflin established as new M-G-M star . . . new giveaways banned in Canada . . . Dieppe newsreels pack theatres . . . Paramount sells 10 pic-

NED E. DEPINET

(*Continued on Page 70*)

Congratulations

MISS RAY LEWIS

on the thirtieth anniversary of the publication of the Canadian Moving Picture Digest. During the past three decades the Canadian Moving Picture Digest has been growing in strength and in authority in the Canadian Moving Picture Industry. Today, it stands as the voice of the industry throughout the length and breadth of this Dominion.

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HYE BOSSIN

Highlights Of Film History

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tures to U.A. for release . . . indie producers face business close-out . . . F-P file suit against N. L. Nathanson and associates . . . Lou Geller, Winnipeg Warner branch manager, passes . . . Jack Arthur directs Army Shows . . . Bob Eves liaison officer between NFB and War Services Committee . . . Monogram Pictures of Canada open own exchanges across Canada; Oscar Hanson, President; Harry Kaufman, General Manager . . . Capitol Theatre, Ottawa, lobby used as tea room for War Services . . . Palace, Windsor, raises $7,600 for war effort . . . new Victory Loan opens; theatres organized for support . . . Ed. Newman, Metropolitan, Winnipeg, 1st prize winner, Digest Showmanship Contest; Jack Cangiano, Melrose, North Bay, Ernie Petch, Strand, Brandon, 2nd and 3rd prize winners . . . Paramount's "Wake Island" packs terrific punch . . . Leslie Howard's "Mister V" smash British hit . . . J. J. Allen passes; Canadian Industry mourns . . . Mary Pickford donates bungalow in Toronto for war charities . . . George M. Cohan passes . . . free movies on Sundays proposed for armed forces . . . MPTA of Ont. organized; "United Front for Industry" slogan; Syd. Taube, executive-secretary . . . Noel Coward's "In Which We Serve" plays to S.R.O. biz; U.A. releasing . . . Paul Maynard appointed Toronto Branch Manager, PRC . . . Monty Woolley, "The Beard", top-ranking star . . . many film folk killed in Boston's "Cocanut Grove" holocaust . . . Pioneers hold 3rd annual meeting, Toronto; Clair Hague elected President; Ray Lewis, Secretary . . . film exchanges and theatre circuits hold Xmas parties for staffs . . . churches opposes Sunday shows for troops . . . Abbott and Costello top money-making stars.

1943

M-G-M's "Random Harvest", and Paramount's "Road to Morocco" top holiday attractions . . . Disney's "Bambi" best yet . . . C. M. Woolfe passes in England . . . War Service Committee sponsors Aid to Russia Campaign . . . Digest dominates bulletin board at Joint Conference of War Finance Officials and publications editors . . . films recommended for use in Ontario secondary schools . . . all theatres institute weekly panic fire drills . . . Liberty Magazine states "there is no substitute for movies" as morale builder . . . CPP announces Benevolent Fund . . . L. W. Payne, Capitol, Listowel, lauded for extensive war services . . . Film Industry classified as "essential" by U.S. Government for technicians and key men . . . F-P organize "Fat Salvage" shows across Dominion . . . John Grierson appointed, Director of Public Information; remains as Film Commissioner also . . . President Roosevelt thanks Film Industry for March of Dimes Campaign . . . Dr. A. H. Giannini dies . . . . Errol Flynn acquitted on rape charges . . . W. S. Van Dyke passes . . . Bob Stevens, veteran Sudbury exhibitor, dies . . . Warner's "Casablanca" released coincident with Roosevelt-Churchill Casablanca Conference . . . M. W. McCutcheon new Administrator of Services, WPTB . . . Arthur Lee killed in plane crash . . . Digest editor reports wide anti-British feeling in U.S.; urges more "Mrs. Minivers" . . . Greer Garson, James Cagney, "Mrs. Miniver" top Academy Awards . . . U.S. Film Industry raises $2,000,000 for war relief . . . Fox's "Moon Is Down" has world premiere, Little Norway, Toronto . . . Pioneers Ball, Toronto, raises $4,000 for Benevolent Fund . . . 4th Victory Loan Drive opens . . . J. P. O'Loghlin re-elected President, CMPDA . . . J. L. Ilsley addresses special meeting, M.P. Section, National War Finance Committee . . . 30 Toronto theatres hold "Fats Salvage" special shows . . . . Canadian Army Show opens to SRO biz . . . Ray Lewis a grandmother again . . . Paramount's "Star Spangled Rhythm" breaks house record, Imperial, Toronto . . . War Workers' Midnight Shows flop in Toronto, abandoned . . . Winnipeg and Edmonton cancel Sunday movies for troops, under Church pressure . . . movie stars visit Canada for Victory Loan . . . Nat. Selective Service issues first Compulsory Employment Transfer Order; film industry classified as "non essential" with bowling alleys and dance halls . . . Joseph Schenck signs 7-year contract as Fox production chief . . . Warner's cut releases to 16 for new season . . N. L. Nathanson passes in Toronto . . . Leslie Howard missing on plane flight . . . Greek War Relief Campaign opens . . . Leo Devaney and Col. Cooper confer with Deputy Minister of Labor, re Selective Service regulations affecting Film Industry . . . J. P. O'Loghlin seriously ill; Sidney Samson appointed Canadian General Manager, Fox . . . Ont. Censor Chief, O. J. Silverthorne, states "movies making unique and important contribution to winning the war" . . . Sunday shows for armed forces in five Canadian cities . . . vandalism on increase in Canadian theatres . . . second Compulsory Labor Draft hits Film Industry . . . Paramount holds Canadian convention . . . B. G. DeSylva, Paramount production chief visits Toronto to help with Navy Show . . . Pioneer Films distributing Associated British Newsreel . . . Warner's announce "TITA" to raise more than $5,000,000 for Army Relief Fund . . . RKO stages 79-city premiere for "Behind Rising Sun" . . . Nicholas Schenck turns over cheque for $1,000,000 as first half of Industry's collections for March of Dimes . . . Canadian Army Show plays before Churchill, Roosevelt and others at Quebec Conference . . . J. P. "Jim" O'Loghlin passes . . . J. J. Fitzgibbons a grandfather . . . War Services Committee pledges 30% reduction in coal consumption by theatres . . . Universal's "Phantom of the Opera" breaks house record, Uptown, Toronto . . . Win Barron, Canadian Paramount exploitation chief, takes on additional chore as commentator, Canadian Paramount News . . . U.A.'s "Stage Door Canteen" breaking all records; runs 7 weeks, Loew's, Toronto . . . MPTAO holds annual meeting; vote for formation National Assoc. . . . Toronto filmites turn out to hear Charles Francis Coe address Toronto Ad-Sales Club . . . "Meet The Navy" opens in Toronto . . . report J. Arthur Rank seeking interest in Canadian Odeon Theatres . . . War Services Committee holds annual meeting; J. J. Fitzgibbons elected National Chairman; T. J. Bragg Vice-Chairman; Ray Lewis, Secretary . . . 5th Victory Loan Drive opens . . . re-issues hit peak in U.S. and Canada; shortage of new pictures main factor . . . theatres abandon midnight shows as coal conservation move . . . Clarence Robson, Odeon General Supervisor, passes . . . Grierson denies report he will head CBC . . . world premiere, Universal's "Corvette K-225" held in Ottawa . . . women taking over management of many Canadian theatres . . . Paul Nathanson married . . . Film Industry hits new high in co-operation on 5th Victory Loan . . . theatre managers forming associations across Canada, stress fact groups are social, not union-inclined . . . Vancouver cancels blackouts; marquee lights back on after year's fadeout . . . Ray Lewis acquires re-issue rights 4 Selznick productions . . . Film Bldg., Toronto, suffers disastrous fire; Monogram shipper dies as result of fire . . . Nat Taylor buys interest in PRC . . . N.S. Censor Board head, C. H. Bennett, passes . . . CPP holds 3rd annual meeting . . . Warner's announce plans to distribute

CLARENCE ROBSON

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French-dubbed versions of 16 top pix; other companies following suit . . . Jerry Shea dies in Toronto . . . juvenile deliquency on increase; B.C. cities impose 9.30 curfew for under sixteeners.

1944

RESTRICTION placed on movie advertising and free space in Canadian newspapers . . . I.O.D.E. criticizes adults for purchasing theatre tickets for children not their own . . . Financial Times rates movies highest morale-builder . . . Odeon acquires 7 theatres, Man. and Sask. from Nat Rothstein . . . Leo Devaney succeeds late J. P. O'Loghlin as President, CMPDA . . . Trade honors W. Ray Johnson on 30th Anniversary in Motion Pictures . . . War Services Committee meets with Don Henshaw to discuss plans for 6th Victory Loan; announce Scrap Book Contest for exhibitors, Victory Bonds as prizes . . . Warner net profit, over $8,000,000 . . . B. C. Salamis appointed liaison officer between Canadian Red Cross and Greek War Relief . . . Ont. Government abandons investigation into Film Exchange fire; states "no sabotage" . . . "Random Harvest" tops Film Daily Best Ten Poll . . . Dave Coplan promoted to Managing Director, U.A., in Great Britain; A. J. Jeffery succeeds as Canadian General Manager . . . John Grierson resigns as Chairman, War Information Board; remains Film Commissioner . . . Ben Freedman re-elected President, Ont. Indies; Harry Romberg, Secretary . . . RKO turns over $240,000 to "March of Dimes" as profits from distribution of "Forever and a Day" . . . Loew's Inc. hits new high with net profit of $13,500,000 . . . RKO signs distribution deal with Spitz-Goetz' International Pictures . . . Ont. Cinematograph Act amended, with new restrictions on film exchange buildings; many companies planning own buildings as soon as permits can be obtained . . . law suit opens between Kent Theatre, Montreal (Garson & Laine) against United Amusements, and Warner Bros. over priority of runs, etc. . . . Evelyn Lilley becomes only woman manager in Toronto, at Village Theatre . . . Odeon acquiring more theatres in B.C.; Clare Appel now Odeon publicity director . . . Arthur Kelly resigns from U.A. to become J. Arthur Rank's U.S. representative . . . United Front Committee decides on conciliation boards in six key cities in Canada . . . Jules Bernstein presented with illuminated scroll on 30th Anniversary as manager, Loew's, Toronto . . . Industry backs Canadian Red Cross Drive . . . Jennifer Jones, Paul Lukas, "Casablanca" win top "Oscars" . . . Hon. J. Earl Lawson and George Beeston appointed to Board of Odeon . . . Min Habick, former secretary to late N. L. Nathanson, joins Famous as assistant manager, Capitol, Vancouver . . . Archie Laurie married . . . Copyright Appeal Board defers decision on Amer. Performing Right Society request for additional annual license fee from exhibitors . . . A. J. Mason re-elected President, Maritimes indies . . . shortage of second features forcing many theatres into single-bill policy; reissues cleaning up . . . Warner's produce "Shining Future" for Canada's 6th Victory Loan; all-star cast; Don Henshaw to Hollywood as Canadian advisor . . . Danny Kaye sensational success in first feature picture, Goldwyn's "Up In Arms", hailed as top comedy find since Bob Hope . . . Odeon and Empire-Universal announce plans for new head office bldg., and 2,500-seat theatre on Carlton St., Toronto; Warner's and Columbia building exchanges on Carlton St. also . . . F-P and Odeon in legal battle for Hamilton United Theatres; Odeon emerges victorious . . . Col. John Cooper resigns as Chairman, CMPDA . . . Artkino takes over franchise for Russian pix in Canada . . . Will Hays cites great war effort of Industry in 22nd annual report to MPPDA . . . movies celebrate 50th Anniversary, April 14th . . . . Neil Agnew resigns from Paramount to join Selznick's Vanguard Films; Charles Reagan new Paramount General Sales Manager . . . F-P profit $1,350,000 . . . Regina exhibitors form association . . . Myron Selznick passes . . . Esquire Films taken over by Oscar Hanson . . . Nathanson companies form employees association with Dick Main as chairman . . . Oscar Hanson forms Microfilm-Microstat Ltd., George Oullahan manager . . . Odeon acquires Capitol, St. John's, Que., Regent, Sturgeon Falls . . . Eddie Cantor celebrates 35 years in show biz . . . RKO and M-G-M start radio programs plugging product . . . Roy Rogers visits Toronto . . . Ray Lewis visits Hollywood . . . 6th Victory Loan oversubscribed; film industry big factor in success of drive . . . Paramount net profit, $16,000,000 . . . Warner's to make series of sports shorts in Canada . . . RKO profit at $7,000,000 . . . CPP membership nears 300 . . . General Films releasing Paramount 16mm. pictures . . . "Snow White" big in re-issue engagements . . . Fox completes "Wilson", cost $6,000,000 . . . Jules Bernstein seriously ill . . . Industry aids CWAC Recruiting Drive . . . Spyros Skouras, Fox prexy, returns from England, praises Arthur Rank, and British people . . . Paramount's "Going My Way" breaking all records . . . C. Aubrey Smith knighted . . . Allies invade France . . . Morris Stein seriously ill . . . Syd. Taube on loan to Dept. of Labor, organizes Farm Commando Brigades . . . M-G-M celebrates 20th Anniversary . . . rumours start of Arthur Rank's growing interest in Canadian exhibition and distribution . . . . Edward Raftery re-elected President, U.A. . . . A. F. of L. starts move to unionize Toronto exchange employees . . . Larry Bearg promoted to Western Division Manager, F-P, headquarters in Toronto . . . Ted Soucie, Alexander, Rouyn, wins Victory Loan Scrap Book Contest; Freeman Skinner, Orpheus, Halifax, 2nd; Bill Trudell, Capitol, London, 3rd . . . Empire-Universal convention in Montreal . . . Henry Ginsberg new Paramount production chief; B. G. DeSylva as unit producer . . . March of Time's "Tolerance" wins wide praise . . . Montreal branch, CPP, formed . . . Jack Warner honored by Canadian Government for "Shining Future" . . . F-P announce plans for new head office bldg., and 2,500-seat theatre, Dundas & Yonge, Toronto . . . John Davis, British Odeon managing director, in Canada for theatre survey; denies deal pending with Canadian Odeon . . . Selznick's "Since You Went Away" doing sensational biz . . . Walker Theatre, Winnipeg, sold to Odeon associate, Henry Morton

PAUL NATHANSON

J. ARTHUR RANK

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Highlights Of Film History

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. . . F-P buy three theatres in Medicine Hat . . . . Paramount Theatre, St. John's, Nfld., opens; F-P and Morris Milligan partnership . . . Louis B. Mayer hurt in fall from horse . . . U.A. to distribute Arthur Rank product in U.S.; Empire-Universal gets Canadian distribution . . . Bob Hope visits Toronto . . . Wesley Ruggles joins Rank's Eagle-Lion Films . . . conciliation meeting in Toronto . . . Paramount starlet, Diana Lynn big hit in Toronto visit . . . Industry Golf Tourney held in Toronto . . . Sam Goldwyn buys screen rights to "Earth and High Heaven", controversial best-seller by Toronto authoress . . . Wolfe Cohen to Foreign Dept., Warner Bros.; Ralph Clark new Canadian General Manager . . . Wendell Wilkie dies . . . Dave Coplan back for visit . . . MPTAO holds annual meeting . . . restrictions on outdoor lighting lifted; marquees blaze once again . . . 7th Victory Loan Drive opens . . . Morris Weiss announces plans for 1,000-seat de luxe theatre, North Toronto; Ben Okun's Biltmore Theatres to build at Yonge and Dundas . . . Doug. Rosen moves from Winnipeg to Toronto U.A. branch manager . . . .F-P plan 2,000-seater in Hamilton . . . Lakehead managers form association . . . rumours grow stronger of Rank buy into Canadian Odeon . . . M-G-M produces "Tomorrow John Jones" for Victory Loan; stars visit Canada again . . . Sam Glasier promoted to Canadian exploitation chief, Fox . . . U.S. honors movies with special 3c stamp on 50th Anniversary . . . Syd. Scott passes . . . F.D.R. re-elected President, U.S.A. . . . John Davis back in Toronto . . . 1,000 F-P employees in armed forces . . CPP holds 4th annual convention in Toronto . . . Ivan Ackery, Orpheum, Van., wins 1st prize, Digest Showmanship Contest; Henry Marshall, Regent, Ottawa, Stan Andrews, Broadway, Timmins, runners-up . . . Paul Nathanson a father . . . announce 50-50 partnership deal between Rank and Canadian Odeon . . . Mickey Dunning passes in Montreal . . . CPP Benevolent Fund expanded to cover entire Industry . . . "Pat" Drohan passes . . . Odeon acquires 8 Garson-Laine houses, Montreal . . . PRC buys up state-right franchise holders; may enter theatre field . . . F-P makes affiliation deal with F. G. Spencer in Maritimes.

1945

BING CROSBY biggest money-making star for 1944 as a result of "Going My Way" . . . Ont. Govt. talking about 10% amusement tax again . . . 24,188 prints of features, 25,533 of shorts, supplied to armed forces by W.A.C. . . . F-P starts centralized telephone service for Toronto houses . . . Odeon introduces Children's Club, with special Sat. morning matinees . . . "Going My Way" tops Film Daily Poll . . . United Amusement, Montreal, wins year-long suit of Kent Theatre . . . Simpson's department store buys Ace Theatre, Toronto, for expansion plan . . . prominent Canadians named to Board of Odeon . . . 20th Century-Fox, Toronto, hosts at luncheon for Tom Connors . . . F-P celebrate silver jubilee; inaugurate 25-Year Club; Digest publishes special issue honoring event . . . "Babe" Coval transferred from Montreal to Trinidad . . . re-issues still cleaning up in U.S. and Canada . . . top grossers among new pix, "Meet Me In St. Louis", "Frenchman's Creek", "National Velvet", "Princess and the Pirate", "Hollywood Canteen", "Murder, My Sweet", "Laura" and "Music For Millions . . . Haskell Masters resigns from Odeon and Empire-Universal . . . Ont. indies hold annual meeting; Ben Freedman re-elected President, Harry Romberg, Secretary . . . F-P vs. Odeon lawsuit reopened . . . A. L. Solman passes . . . Toronto City Council bans midnight shows, except Xmas and New Year's Eve . . . Selznick International celebrates 10th anniversary . . . jurisdictional labor dispute closes 20 F-P theatres in Winnipeg . . . coal shortage scare, brings threat to close theatres, Toronto . . . Columbia's "Song To Remember" breaking all records . . . Clair Hague passes; Canadian Industry mourns loss . . . Ont. Indies state "conciliation dead"; urge continued Government control . . . Nathanson-Rank group forms Instructional and Educational Films, to produce shorts at Toronto studio; Frank O'Byrne resigns from Assoc. Screen News to head new company . . . Winnipeg strike settled; theatres reopened . . . J. J. Chisholm succeeds Frank O'Byrne at Assoc. Screen, Toronto . . . Murray Sweigman buys Morris Rittenberg's Independent Poster Supply, Toronto . . . Frank Leduc, Montreal manager, Sovereign Films, passes . . . Canada prepares for new Victory Loan; Fox produces "All Star Bond-Rally" for Loan . . . Lauren Bacall, new Warner find, terrific with Bogart in "To Have and Have Not" . . . juke-box movies appear in Canada . . . . Jay I. English, Canadian Odeon maintenance and engineering head, visits England for survey of Odeon Theatres there . . . "Going My Way" tops Academy Awards, with Crosby and Leo McCarey honored; Ingrid Bergman wins "Oscar" . . . Hollywood studios tied up by strikes; IATSE threatens U.S. and Canada strike of operators . . . Ralph Dale and Dick Main resign from Odeon to enter partnership with Sam Fingold . . . Clare Appel named Eastern Division Manager, Odeon . . . Frank Kershaw appointed President, General Theatre Supply . . . F-P Toronto Suburban Managers Assoc. expanded to take in downtown theatres . . . F. H. Gow appointed B.C. district manager, F-P; Maynard Joiner new Vancouver and Victoria manager . . . Phil Reisman signs deal for RKO with Pathe-Gaumont . . . 20th Century Theatres takes over operation of F-P's Belsize and Bedford theatres, Toronto . . . John C. McCarthy, pioneer Ont. exhibitor, passes . . . A. W. Perry named Empire-Universal President . . . Frank Myers, General Manager, E.B.A., passes . . . Alliance Films' film concert, "Adventure in Music" surprise box-office draw . . . Dave Griesdorf resigns from Odeon; Howard Boothe named B.C. district manager . . . Griesdorf named General Sales Manager, PRC of Canada . . . Harold Bishop promoted to supervisor F-P Manitoba theatres . . . Franklin Delano Roosevelt passes; whole world mourns . . . Haskell Masters named Canadian General Manager, Warner Bros. . . . F-P net profit, $1,375,000 . . . Fox's "Song of Bernadette" goes into general release . . . theatres raise $81,000 for Canadian Red Cross . . . 8th Victory Loan opens . . . Toronto to have Variety Club Tent . . . 20th Century Theatres take over operation of several F-P houses in Ontario . . . Odeon buys Palace, St. Kitts . . . Tommy Hoad, General Theatre Supply, invents machine to eliminate flicker from the "flickers" . . . V-E DAY . . . Fox's "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" smash b. o. . . . Johnny Ganetakos succeeds E. N. Tabah, as General Manager, Confederation Amusements, Montreal . . . J. Arthur Rank arrives in Toronto; press conference reveals little . . . V-E Day riots close Halifax and Dartmouth theatres for five days; no disturbances elsewhere . . . Morris Milligan passes . . . Tivoli, Eglinton theatres, Toronto, on day-and-date first-run policy of top pictures, to relieve backlog . . . A. J. Jeffery, Canadian General Manager, U.A., dies suddenly . . . Rank's British

CLAIR HAGUE

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HERBERT T. KALMUS, President and General Manager

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pictures to be released through Eagle-Lion in Canada . . . RKO announce production starts on "Bells of St. Mary's", starring Bing Crosby, Ingrid Bergman, produced and directed by Leo McCarey . . . W-B resigns from MPPDA . . . Jack Hunter resigns from Paramount, Toronto, to manage late Morris Milligan's Hamilton theatres; Russ Simpson moved from Vancouver to Toronto to fill vacancy . . . John W. Hicks, Jr., passes . . . Charles Chaplin, Montreal branch, promoted to Canadian General Manager, U.A. . . . R. J. O'Donnell addresses Variety Club organizational dinner, Toronto . . . Syl Gunn resigns from F-P; appointed Winnipeg branch manager, Paramount . . . Republic celebrates 10th Anniversary . . . Paul Nathanson host at welcoming party for Charles Chaplin . . . Famous to re-open Victoria, Toronto . . . Industry leaders visit battlefronts as guests of Gen. Eisenhower . . . Nat Taylor announces F-P has 50% interest in 20th Century Theatres; partners bought out . . . film industry golf tourney held in Toronto . . . "Valley of Decision" and "Rhapsody in Blue" top grossers . . . S. W. Smith visits Toronto . . . J. Arthur Rank and RKO announce joint production-distribution deal . . . Fingold-Dale-Main combination turn concert impressarios . . . Harvey Hunt resigns from F-P, appointed assistant to Frank Fisher, head booker and buyer for Odeon . . . Joe Plottel resigns as Toronto branch manager, Warner's; succeeded by Sam Pearlman of Calgary . . . Metro's "Son of Lassie", and Paramount's "Salty O'Rourke" big b. o. draws . . . Charles Skouras announces plans for prefabricated theatres . . . "Diamond Horseshoe" top Fox Technicolor musical . . . P. G. Demetre passes in Montreal . . . Mrs. Jean Gregory, Hamilton partner, sues Odeon charging "misrepresentation" . . . . Eagle-Lion set-up announced, Archie Laurie, General Manager; link up with Monogram . . . N. W. Mason passes in New Glasgow, N.S. . . . Warner and Columbia exchange bldgs., Toronto, near completion . . . Don Gauld, Montreal supervisor, Odeon, moves to Toronto; Gordon Dann succeeds in Montreal . . . two Winnipeg unions merge . . . Selznick-Rank form British producing company . . . . Winfield Sheehan passes . . . V-J DAY . . . Guy Upjohn resigns from RKO, Toronto; joins F-P as booker . . . John Grierson resigns as Film Commissioner . . . ban lifted on giveaways . . . Allied Co-Operative Theatres formed in Toronto; Ben Freedman, President, Bill Weiss, Managing Director . . . Hal Horne resigns from 20th Century-Fox . . . RKO U.S. executives attend company's Canadian convention, Montreal . . . Win Barron seriously ill . . . Len Hoffman resigns from Perkins Electric, Toronto; succeeded by Rex Shale . . . Universal announces several independent producers to release through Univ. . . . "Dillinger" smash b.o., but arouses reformers' ire; finally withdrawn after protests . . . Kent Craig resigns as manager Tivoli, Hamilton; joins United Amusement, Hamilton, as supervisor . . . Paul Nathanson seriously ill, ordered by doctors to take complete rest from all work; T. J. Bragg takes over operation of Odeon . . . Eric Johnston elected President, MPPDA . . . Charles Einfeld resigns from Warner's; Mort Blumenstock succeeds as advertising and publicity director . . . 20th Century Theatres celebrates 10th Anniversary . . .Joe Plottel appointed General Manager, Foto-Nite, succeeding Harry Kaufman, resigned . . . 9th Victory Loan opens . . . General Theatre Supply open Western Canada offices . . . Sam W. Smith passes in England . . . Harry Painter resigns as Toronto branch manager, Empire-Universal; heads Associated Theatres; Frank Vaughan new Toronto branch manager, E-U . . . Frank Capra's Liberty Films to release through RKO . . . Mickey Isman appointed assistant to A. W. Perry, Emp-Univ. prexy . . . Theatre Confections Ltd., formed; J. J. Fitzgibbons, Jr., general sales manager . . . Arch H. Jolley re-elected executive-secretary, MPTA of Ont. . . . crime wave hits Toronto; theatres broken into . . . Paramount's "Duffy's Tavern" breaking records . . . Leon J. Bamberger addresses MPTAO annual meeting . . . film delivery services in Toronto, merge . . . F-P start series of regional meets . . . F-P and Odeon announce big building programs . . . Jules Levey visits Toronto . . . Fred Trebilcock 1st prize-winner, Digest Showmanship Contest; George Stroud, 2nd; Bill Burke, 3rd . . . Odeon, Winnipeg opens . . . . David Bernstein passes . . . Hal Horne forms Story Productions Inc. . . . F-P holds associate meeting, Chicago . . . Ernie Moule seriously ill . . . Rank-Universal-International deal announced; United World Pictures name of new company . . . Robert Benchley dies . . . Ed Warren passes . . . War Services Committee dissolved . . . . 16mm. projection equipment being made in Canada; Larry Allen heads new company . . . General Films releasing Planet 16mm. product . . . Frank Kershaw resigns from General Theatre Supply; Pete Brown new President . . . Xmas parties hit new high, with all exchanges and circuits entertaining.

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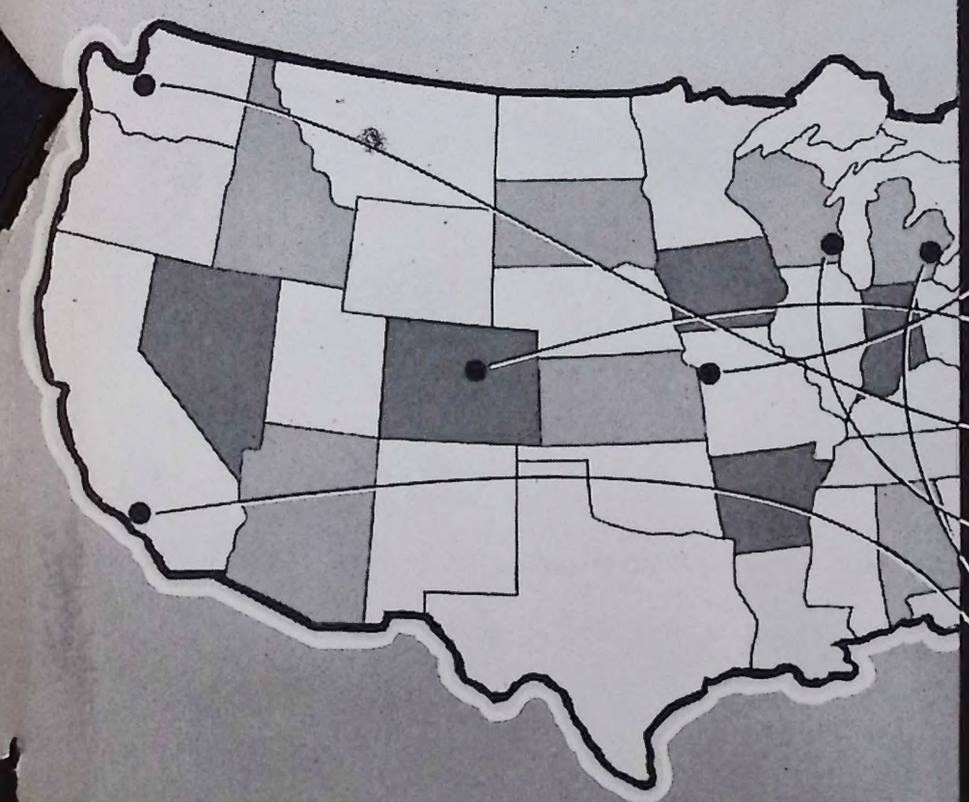

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